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WINTER CARNIVAL ON ICE

Vlad Lodoaba

Gracing Kenyon Arena, Hilary Gibbons and Justin Pekarek skim the ice in the "MIDDle of the Road" Ice Show Friday evening. The annual ice show, which featured local skaters and guests such as Gibbons and Pekarek, was part of the 81st annual Winter Carnival at Middlebury College.

Frozen pipes freeze MMC

By Dan Shea
Staff Writer

On the evening of Sunday, Feb. 15, a pipe froze and subsequently burst in Adirondack House, spewing water and flooding the Career Services Office's (CSO) Career Library Area, located on the first floor. College officials allege that the pipe froze after an attic window in the gear office of the Middlebury Mountain Club (MMC) was left open. College officials have now frozen the MMC's budget in expectation that it will fall to the MMC to cover the damage costs.

CSO Executive Director Jaye Roseborough said that the room was closed for three to four days as Facilities Management cleaned the water-damaged furniture and carpet. Visiting employers moved interviewing sessions to rooms elsewhere on campus, and the foul smell forced the CSO staff to close the doors to surrounding offices. Roseborough noted, however, that the disruption to students was limited by the fact that most of the CSO's resources are available online. MMC President Andy Hale '06 first learned of the burst pipe when he opened an e-mail from Assistant Director for Outdoor Programs Derek Doucet. In subsequent discussions with Doucet, Hale discovered that Doucet had decided to freeze the club's budget to ensure that it would have the funds to cover the costs of clean-up and perhaps a new carpet, which are estimated at $4,000 to $6,000. Neither Doucet nor Facilities Management were available to comment.

The repercussions of a freeze on the budget of the College's largest student organization are likely to be felt by many. Hale noted that a freeze would effectively "shut down the day-to-day expenditures [of the organization]. Most importantly, we would not be able to pay for gas" when members go on MMC-sponsored trips. The club's officers have not yet decided whether they will ask students to pay for gas and other expenses themselves, but the decades-long MMC tradition of offering free trips is certainly in jeopardy.

While Hale acknowledges that the MMC should defray damage costs if the club is indeed responsible, he feels that culpability has not been established. MMC Climbing Director Lynne Zummo '06 also feels that the club is not being afforded the due process it would have expected. Facilities Management is acting "as if the MMC is responsible, but we have no chance to tell our side."

Zummo and Hale are especially concerned because the weekend when the burst occurred was the

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Fate of ZOO hangs in the balance

By Thomas Drescher
News Editor

DOES THE SOCIAL HOUSE SYSTEM FIT THE COLLEGE'S SOCIAL VISION? SEE PAGE 5 FOR PART I OF A THREE-PART SERIES.

The Community Council decided on Monday to postpone a vote that will ultimately determine the fate of the social house Zeta Theta Phi (ZOO). The subcommittee on academic and social houses presented its recommendations for all six social house organizations at Monday's meeting, and the Council voted to approve five of these, ZOO being the only exception. Council members agreed that more time would be needed to reach a decision, so they will reconvene on Monday for further deliberation and a final vote. Recommendations will then be sent to President John McCardell, who makes the final decision in the annual social and academic interest house review process.

Karen Guttentag, assistant dean of student affairs and a member of the subcommittee, said at the meeting that she and other members voted unanimously not to provide ZOO with a new, smaller house for next year and added that the subcommittee is considering a stipulation that would prevent current ZOO members from drawing into Palmer House, the organization's former home, during this spring's revamped room draw process. While none of this has been approved by the council or McCardell, ZOO Acting President Leigh Taylor '05 and Inter-House Council (IHC) Co-President Kris Burfitt '05 both expected that ZOO would have a new home next fall.

"The IHC will do everything it can to support [ZOO] through its period of self-sanction, and will assist the house in the process of growing into a healthy organization, starting in a new location next year," said Burfitt. If the subcommittee's recommendation is approved, however, there will be no new location for ZOO.

Taylor was under the impression that she and her fellow members would present a housing proposal to the IHC, and she felt confident that it would be accepted. "If the proposal is not accepted," explained Taylor,

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Albert Bitici

President John McCardell finalizes a fair share agreement worth about $6.5 million with the town Monday night.

Town and gown strike accord

By Kate Doorley
Staff Writer

Grassroots democracy is alive and well in Vermont. Once a year, residents of voting age of each town gather to address the important issues facing the town and to voice their opinions on various matters to be discussed. The Middlebury Town meeting took place this past Monday in the Municipal Gymnasium. While the majority of the issues discussed were germane to the town alone, such as approval for the purchase of a new snowplow and police cruiser, one of the first items introduced will have a large impact on the development of the relationship between the town and the College for years to come.

At the Town Meeting, Middlebury College President John McCardell and town Selectboard Chairman John Tenny announced the results of a recent series of negotiations about the renewal of the so-called "Fair-Share" Agreement between the town and the College. The original agreement, which was crafted in 1994, gave the town an outright gift of $1.2 million, to be used any way the town chose, as recognition of the relationship between the two Middleburys — the town and the college. The new agreement will provide for a yearly two-part payment. One portion of the gift will be based on the municipal tax rate in the town of Middlebury, and will total $200,000 in January and February of 2005, when the first disbursements will be made. The second part of the gift centers on the College's endowment. A portion of the investment earnings from a previously designated part of the endowment will be paid to the town each year. Thus, the total value of the gift will fluctuate based on overall economic forces. The College's administration estimates, however, that the total

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MIDDBRIEFS

BY VIRGINIA HARPER AND BEN SALKOWE

Save J-Term site scores 11,000 hits in 24 hours

John Schirm '05.5, Pieter Nijnens '05 and Alfonso Maraver '05 launched a website, www.savejterm.com, on Monday afternoon in an effort to organize student and alumni complaints against the possible elimination of J-Term. Providing a forum for student, alumni and faculty discussion, savejterm.com features anecdotes, opinions and stories from J-Terms past. The site also includes an online petition for Middlebury students who wish to show support of Winter Term and a generic e-mail that can be sent to Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs Alison Byerly. A school-wide e-mail was sent on Monday afternoon from the Student Government Association introducing savejterm.com.

This January, Schirm, Nijnens and Maraver began to realize the importance J-Term has had in their overall Middlebury experience. Looking for a way to center the voice of the student body, they found a solution in the Internet. "We knew a vast majority of the student body was in support of it but no one was officially speaking out," said Schirm.

The website is being paid for personally by the three students, but for Schirm, "J-term is worth it." In its first 24 hours, the site received over 11,000 hits and more than 1,400 students have already signed the petition. Regardless of what ultimately happens to J-Term, Schirm, Nijnens and Maraver already see the website as a success. According to Maraver, it is a place "where students and alumni can share the great experiences they have had during J-Term."

Each member of the savejterm.com team cites a different J-Term experience as his best. For Maraver, it is the ability to explore a wide range of activities every day. Both Nijnens and Schirm said their DigitalBridges class this past January was their most memorable experience. Last year Schirm was able to travel to Germany with his language class, which he described as "a wonderful cultural experience."

College launches pair of homepages

The Library and Information Services Web Team split the College homepage last Friday morning. There are now two Middlebury College homepages — an on-campus page, which displays campus events and announcements — and a general public homepage, which displays only specific items to off-campus viewers.

"The new page will make it possible to deliver more news headlines and campus announcements," said Editor of Electronic Communications Tim Etchells in an e-mail to students. Outside viewers of the homepage will be limited to "news items of general interest," according to the e-mail.

In the past, the homepage has been criticized for seeming to endorse certain events by listing them. Last November during the controversial visit of United States Presidential hopeful Lyndon LaRouche, Director of the Rohatyn Center for International Affairs and Professor of Political Science Allison Stanger told *The Campus* that she "[objects] to the College promoting and endorsing his talk on its main Web page."

Without necessarily promoting and endorsing, the two homepages create a means to provide more information to members of the College community. However, there was some worry that outside visitors might not see a complete reflection of the College community. Last weekend, the headline in *The Campus* "Students Mobilize to Save J-Term" was visible to individuals on campus, but not, for example, to prospective students viewing the website from their homes.

But to John Schirm '05.5, one of three students who created www.savejterm.com, an online petition in favor of keeping J-Term, the different homepages are not hiding or distorting. "I think the reason they have different pages is just because [certain] issues pertain more to students," he said.

do you have a story idea?

e-mail us at campus@middlebury.edu

Albert Bitici

Kicking off Winter Carnival weekend, 80s cover band Orange Crush invaded McCullough Social Space on Thursday night. A mob of students cut loose to celebrate the three-day celebration last weekend.

Carnival events stay safe

Weekend produces fewer alcohol problems this year

By Taylor Johnston
Staff Writer

After months of planning and preparation, the Winter Carnival Social Board and Public Safety boasted a smooth and successful weekend of well attended events.

According to the Public Safety and Tabby Connor '05, chair of this year's Board, Carnival passed with a combination of record-high attendance at almost all events and a very low number of safety and alcohol related incidents.

Public Safety statistics say only seven alcohol citations were issued for the entire duration of the weekend, and just four students went from the ball to the Health Center.

"We sold 428 [ticket] packages at the beginning of the year, which was 100 more than last year," said Connor. "Based on what we know now, it looks like every event was record-breaking. We don't have the ticket counts in, but based on the amount of money we have it was a really good year."

Only the nightclub talent show's turn out proved marginally disappointing. "I think people were discouraged when they heard it might sell out," Connor explained.

The Social Board, which consisted of event planners operating under Connor, met weekly throughout the fall semester to begin coordinating activities. According to Connor, safety was one of their planning priorities.

"We met with Public Safety two months in advance to plan how many officers will be at each event," she said. "This is very routine for them. The same people do it every year. They just want to know we're not doing something totally outlandish."

Lisa Boudah, director of Public Safety, also described her department's role in the weekend's events. "We help to give guidance in the planning stages and we are present at particular events with large crowds."

Public Safety involves itself in several different aspects of all the crowd-drawing events, from the ski race at the Snow Bowl to the annual ice show in Kenyon Arena. "Anytime a whole bunch of people come to one spot in a short period of time, we're there," explained Boudah.

The department staffed the Magnolia Ball with 17 officers, running the coat check, MiddRides service, sobriety tests and the beer garden. Boudah described the sometimes problematic logistics of the coast check alone: "We don't want people to bring their coats in. For one, there's alcohol, and things can also get lost or stolen. We understand [students'] need to bring coats, but we're going to keep an eye on it systematically," she said. "In a very short period of time we have to check over 1,000 coats."

Though event dynamics prove trying at times, alcohol remains the most notorious safety issue of the weekend. As Connor said, "Winter Carnival has typically been one of the biggest weekends for alcohol-related problems." Accordingly, all members of the Board have had training in intervention strategies for alcohol-related problems.

Despite concerns after an alcohol-laden three days last year, things went quite smoothly this Carnival weekend. "The officers say based on last year it was a pretty low-key year," Connor said. "Last year there were piles of vomit [at the ball]. This year facilities only had to clean up one problem and then there was nothing."

Boudah agreed with Connor, recalling that last year Public Safety transported several students to the hospital after the Health Center became overloaded. She says this year her department worked with the Health Center to improve communication between the two departments and prepare for the weekend.

Public Safety statistics say only seven alcohol citations were issued for the entire duration of the weekend, and just four students went from the ball to the Health Center. "Last year, I want to say that was the number of people that went from the ball to the hospital," remarked Boudah.

Relatively few safety issues existed beyond excessive consumption of alcohol. "The only other [safety] issue is money that has to be watched because we are dealing with a lot of cash," said Connor.

Boudah claims that the fireworks show is always a minor concern. "We like to be around [with the fireworks] just to make sure everything goes well because of the explosives and the potential for sparks to come down. We make sure people stay out of the way," she said.

The Department of Public Safety continues to work to streamline processes for different events. "Some of it's learned over time," Boudah said. "We work with the planners and the CCAC [College Community Activities Council]. We like to see what's happening and make improvements from last year." She said this year, for the first time, students were able to enter the ball through Pepin gymnasium, allowing for more space and less time spent in the cold temperatures outside.

This year Public Safety had the challenge of a daytime NESCAC hockey game to contend with. "There was a little bit of added stress to some people's lives trying to juggle staffing for different events . . . But I think that overall the weekend went well and everyone had a great time with all the activities and athletics," said Boudah.

Connor agreed, and expressed her gratitude for Public Safety's efforts. "Our interactions with security have been great. Everything went very smoothly."

Search for new president heats up

By Daniel Phillips
News Editor

According to the Middlebury College Presidential Search website updated Monday, the Search Committee will complete interviewing and referencing candidates for the position by the middle of this month.

The website explains that upon completing interviews and soliciting references from candidates, the Search Committee expects to reduce the applicant pool in accordance with the charge provided by the Board of Trustees.

As the committee narrows down the number of prospects for the position, those candidates give the committee names from whom they would like personal references taken on their behalf, explained Erin Sullivan '04, co-chair of the Community Council and the sole student representative on the committee.

This referencing process, "which is doing due diligence on the individual candidates," said Trustee and Chair of the Committee Rick Fritz '68 this week, is still underway. "This is a highly confidential phase of the search in order to protect the candidates who are going to be concerned about others knowing about their travel plans," he said. Fritz added that the secrecy is also important to preserve "the interest in this position in the first place as it could prejudice their positions at their existing institutions."

The committee has already held two separate interview sessions in Boston on Feb. 15 and 16, and in New York City on Feb. 24 and 25.

Professor of History and Secretary of the Committee Jim Ralph '82 commented that he is pleased there is a new update on the presidential search for the greater College community to access, but deferred to Fritz in reporting any more details.

Sullivan similarly did not feel comfortable divulging the details of the screening process, but conceded, "It has been a fascinating process to participate in."

The student input Sullivan began amassing last December through e-mail responses and open forums has continued to guide her in the process of choosing the next College president, but as the Committee has become more immersed in the process, those discussions ended, she said.

"I am like the pipsqueak," said Sullivan, the youngest on the com-

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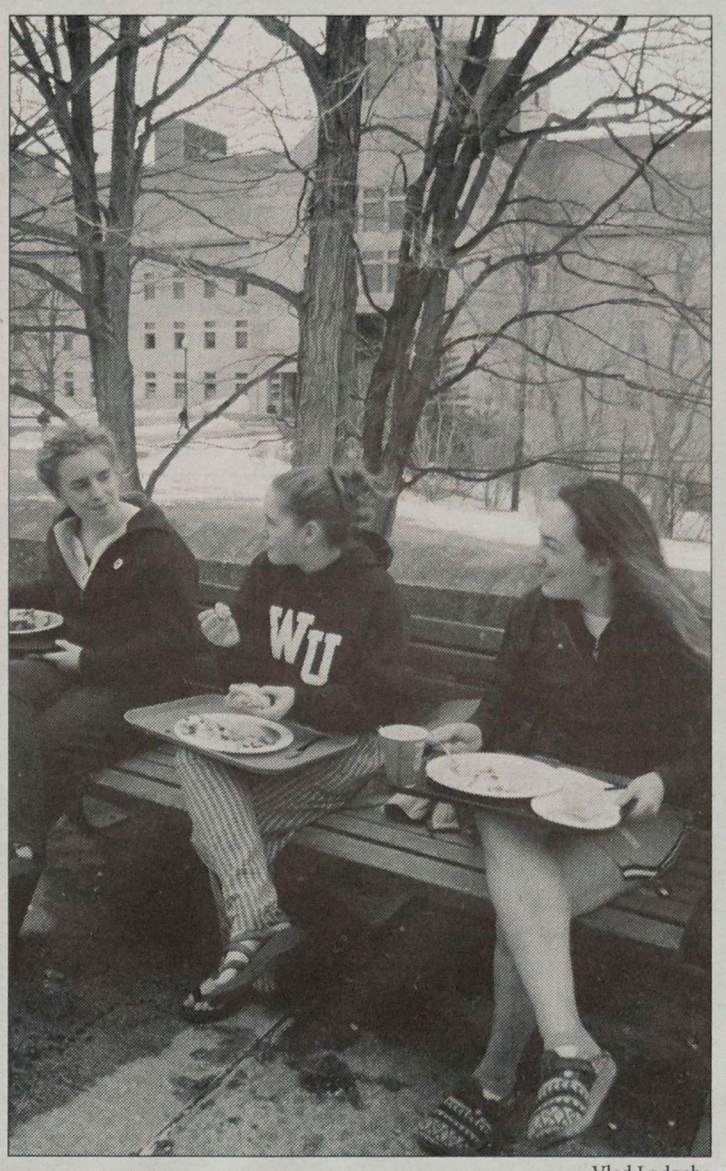
SPRING IS IN THE AIR



Vlad Lodoaba

Carolyn Stwertka, Marissa Sharpe and Kayla Preec, all first-year Febs, see the ground emerge from beneath the snow for the first time.

McCardell to bid farewell to alums

By Chesley Thurber
Associate Editor

With less than four months remaining in his tenure as president of Middlebury College, John M. McCardell, Jr. is beginning a "farewell" tour to College alumni chapters nationwide. McCardell expects to visit 16 chapters in an effort to thank alumni, parents and friends of the College for their continual support. While not an official fundraising campaign, the tour will mark his last major effort as president to raise money for the College, a task at which he has been remarkably successful over the past 13 years.

McCardell will be following a busy itinerary, but is not expected to be absent from Middlebury for more than a week at a time, traveling primarily on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, according to Director of College Advancement Shelly Glassner and Associate Vice President Ann Crumb. Next week, for example, McCardell will attend a lunch and reception in Los Angeles with the local alumni chapter on Tuesday March 9, followed by similar events in San Francisco and Seattle on Wednesday and Thursday.

McCardell also expects to meet with individuals who have been remarkable in their service to the College. "The few moments McCardell has in between planes," Glassner and Crumb told *The Campus*, "he visits with people in each area, such as Lawrence Pierce, Class of 1991, who last visited the College for his 75th reunion."

Other events along the tour include a reception at the Saddle and Cycle Club in Chicago and a special dinner in Boston specifically for alumni who were taught by McCardell in one of his history courses.

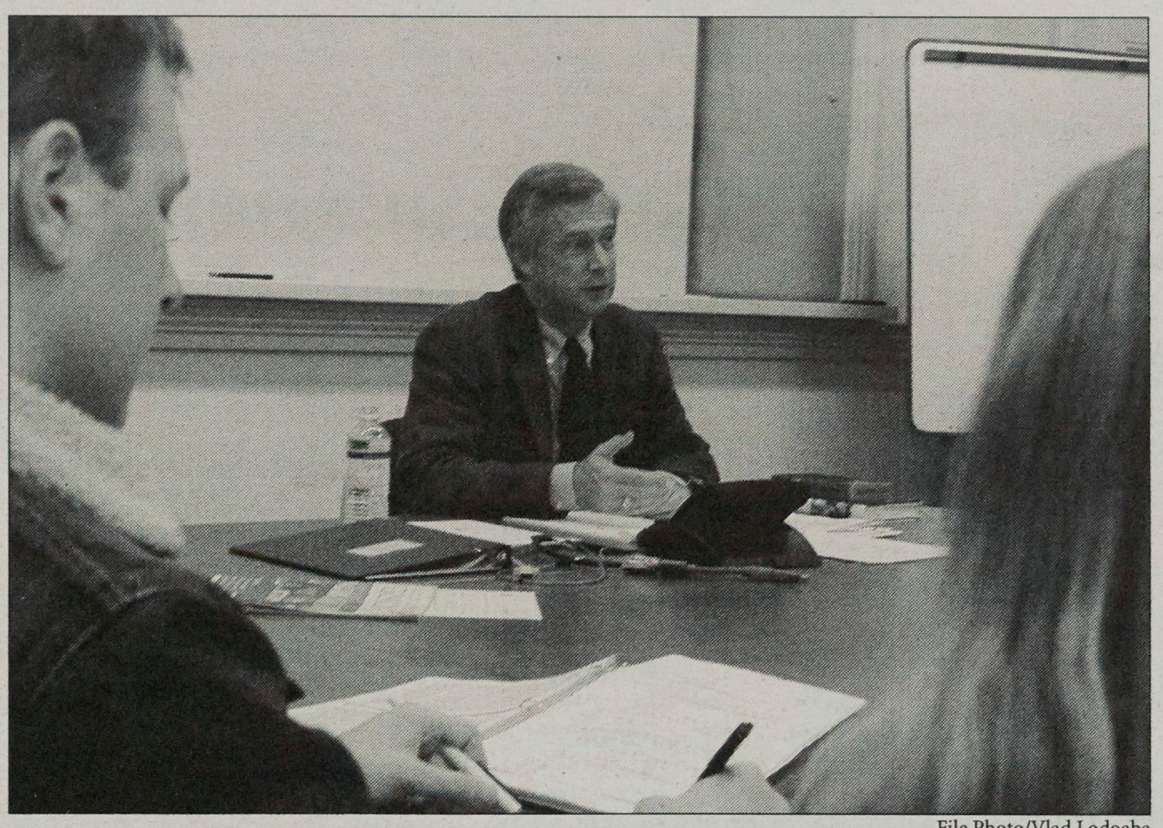
The Middlebury College Alumni Association website shows 24 chapters for alumni, parents and friends of the College. The chapters are mostly based in major metropolitan areas, but some are as far away as London and Tokyo. Additionally, there are chapters for former members of College social houses, the Islamic Society, the Bobolinks a capella group and the football and lacrosse teams.

The tour comes at a time when two other prominent College administrators are already off campus. Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson has taken a semester sabbatical to examine residential life programs at other schools, and Executive Vice President and Provost Ron Liebowitz has taken a leave of absence to avoid conflicts of interest with his own candidacy to succeed McCardell as College president. Glassner and Crumb assured that McCardell's trips would not exert additional pressures on College administration stating, "The senior administrative staff, vice presidents and academic deans oversee the College in their respective areas of responsibility." If needed, Glassner and Crumb added, the President "is just a cell phone away."

During his tenure as College President, McCardell has shown remarkable skill in raising financial support for the College. Most notably, in 2001, the College completed its Bicentennial capital campaign that raised $212 million, exceeding its goal by $12 million.

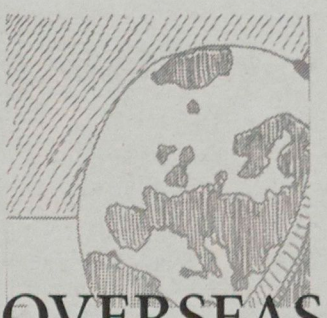
Despite these previous successes, McCardell is committed to continuing his efforts until the completion of his term. "The president's inexhaustible energy is a model for those staff people that travel with him," Glassner and Crumb said in an e-mail.

— CONTRIBUTING: MYRA PALMERO, STAFF WRITER



File Photo/Vlad Lodoaba

President McCardell, pictured here lecturing in a history class, plans to visit alumni chapters across the country.



OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY MEGAN O'KEEFE

"Are you on the team of Bush or Gore?" I did not hesitate to answer. "Gore, of course," I blurted out in American-twanged French. Never mind the fact that I, like most Americans, have not really thought about the Bush-Gore electoral battle in over a year.

Swept up in a lunchtime frenzy of volunteers and Paris' poorest inhabitants at one of France's approximately *100 Restos du Coeur* (Restaurants of the Heart), I was trying my best to gather information for a class presentation on the organization and its services. I was prepared to be both accommodating and diplomatic as I approached homeless men and women eating what might have been their only meal of the day, but I was not prepared for how loudly I would be required to bash Bush.

I wanted to ask about the quality of the services, the number of beneficiaries and possible abuses to the system. Instead, everyone wanted to let me know what they thought of George W. and hear me — a certifiable American fresh from the United States — affirm their image of a war-mongering monster who also devotes time to keeping down the poor.

Almost everyone I tried to interview had something to add — "You like your President Bush?" "In the United States, you would never have a charity organization like this with Bush." "In France, one is much better at helping the poor, but maybe things will get better in your country when Bush is gone."

I did not stop them to point out that at no time in the screening of democratic candidates has anyone stopped to ask them: "Will you start a nationwide soup kitchen-like program based on the formidable model of the French?" The only way I could extract the tiniest bit of information about the *Restos du Coeur* was to simultaneously agree with denunciations of the president of the United States and scribble hurriedly into my notebook when they described the "generosity and giving spirit" of the organization's founder as a sharp contrast to the character of George W. Bush.

To be an American in Paris is fine by the French, as long as you are willing to denounce our country's president. In Paris I have overheard more than one Texas Republican — overcome by fear of French history of using the guillotine to settle political disputes — swear, "You know, I am starting to think I really don't like Bush!" And even a democrat on sejour in France trying to follow the race for the Democratic nomination has problems. He will certainly feel he has selected the correct political party, but it is difficult to evaluate how the democratic hopefuls measure up on the issues against a deafening chorus of "As long as it is not Bush!" Come to think of it, that would be an instant hit on French radio! Or maybe a better one would be, "It is great to be an American in Paris…as long as you are not Bush."

Council approves social house review findings

By Thomas Drescher
News Editor

The Community Council voted on Monday to approve five of the six recommendations presented by the subcommittee on Academic and Social Houses. Pending President McCardell's endorsement of the recommendations, Tavern, Xenia, the Mill and Kappa Delta Rho (KDR) will all continue without stipulations, and Alpha Delta Phi (ADP) will continue with the stipulation that it passes regular custodial examinations. Only the recommendation for Zeta Theta Phi (ZOO) has not yet been approved by the Council — members determined that more time would be necessary to fully evaluate ZOO's situation.

This year's house review subcommittee was chaired by Associate Dean of Library and Information Services David Donahue and Andrew Feinberg '04.

Donahue and Feinberg, along with Associate Dean of Student Affairs Karen Guttentag, another subcommittee member, presented the results of their social house review at Monday's Community Council meeting. Recommendations for Xenia and the Mill, which Donahue called "a model social house," warranted little discussion among Community Council members.

The subcommittee expressed some concern regarding occupancy for Tavern and KDR, but Donahue asserted that the importance of filling beds in the houses was stressed when subcommittee members met with house leaders. KDR's pattern of dorm damage problems was noted, as were Tavern's so-called "internal problems," but Guttentag and Donahue assured the Community Council that these issues did not merit stipulations, and both recommendations to continue without stipulations were ultimately approved.

ADP's dorm damage problems prompted some discussion at the meeting. Recently, ADP members have been cleaning the house themselves after an incident with a burst pipe in J-Term bumped the organization's dorm damage total up to almost $2,000. The Community Coucil concluded that regular custodial reports should determine ADP's status.

If the house receives a poor custodial evaluation, it will be put on probation until the next report is issued. This stipulation, said Donahue, eliminates ambiguity and gives the house a chance to prove itself at intervals throughout the semester.

Guttentag explained that at the end of the spring ADP's situation would be reevaluated, and if it is determined that the membership has resolved its dorm damage issues, the stipulation will be lifted.

ZOO's recommendation is still under consideration. The Community Council will meet again on Monday to discuss the subcommittee's report.

Donahue explained that information for the social house review is gathered from a variety of sources, including Public Safety citation records and occupancy and custodial reports and that the subcommittee considers each house's mission, direction, occupancy situation, adherence to College policy and community activity. Both Feinberg and Donahue noted that while they did put an unusual amount of emphasis on the community service component of the review, it was primarily to encourage community involvement and did not affect the recommendations.

McCardell makes all final decisions regarding the status of social houses, while the Community Council is only approving the recommendations for review by the president.

Once ZOO's recommendation is approved, McCardell will review all six recommendations, make final decisions and the official results of the social house review will be released.

ZOO awaits Council's ruling on its future

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"ZOO will work with [Residential System Coordinator] Kelly Bevere and the IHC to reach an acceptable compromise." Despite Taylor's optimism, ZOO's fate rests entirely in the hands of the Community Council and McCardell.

Taylor and other core members hoped that their efforts to improve the house would be recognized by the IHC and the Community Council subcommittee. While Burfitt pledged to support ZOO on behalf of the IHC, house member Sarah Riddleberger '05 asserted that ZOO is being unfairly victimized. "The IHC has been extremely tough on ZOO and has almost seemed to be waiting for an opportunity to get rid of the house," she said.

ZOO's ongoing struggles culminated in J-Term, when a series of disciplinary incidents prompted the IHC to request that ZOO members draft a proposal for a self-imposed sanction and present it to the IHC as an alternative to discontinuing the house. As a result of this sanction, ZOO will lose Palmer House, its home of 15 years. According to Karen Guttentag, the sanction also included the stipulation that ZOO members attempt to find an alternative space for the organization.

Official details regarding the J-Term disciplinary issues are not available at this time. Acting Dean of Student Affairs Marichal Gentry declined to comment on specific incidents, as did the Department of Public Safety. At Monday's meeting, Guttentag called one particular incident a "stupid policy violation, not dangerous, but everyone was stunned by the idiocy of it."

David Donahue, associate dean of Library and Information Services and co-chair of the Subcommittee on Social and Academic Houses along with Andrew Feinberg '04, said that "things seemed to implode for ZOO during J-Term." Indeed, a series of what Guttentag called "challenging situations," some bad decisions on the part of ZOO leadership and ongoing occupancy concerns forced the IHC to take action. When the IHC asked ZOO to identify the members responsible for certain incidents, the house failed to do so and therefore as an organization essentially assumed responsibility for these incidents.

The subcommittee is also considering transforming ZOO from a social house into a club. This would eliminate the pledge process and make membership more fluid, explained Feinberg, giving ZOO a chance to reshape its image. Eventually ZOO would be able to reapply for social house status.

If the Community Council and McCardell approve the current recommendation, ZOO will be faced with an especially challenging situation. Taylor and the other committed members are very concerned about restoring ZOO's integrity, and it is now up to the Community Council to decide whether or not further handicaps will improve the house's situation.

"The revival of ZOO hinges on reunification of the membership, but the loss of Palmer House will make that already challenging task even more difficult," said Taylor. "Our core membership is in the process of formulating a plan for next year. We are in contact with ZOO alumni, who are providing great advice and support."

Courtesy
Carrie Childs '06.5 transforms a pumpkin during the MMC-sponsored annual "Pumpkin Tumble" last fall. Another yearly favorite, "The Flaming Flamingo," may be missed this year as a result of the MMC's budgetary woes.

Committee narrows prez candidate pool

Continued from page 2

mittee of 38, "but I feel like my opinion has been respected."

Sullivan admits that the process has been quite a strain during her final semester at Middlebury. "I've had to make many sacrifices in other parts of my life," she said.

The committee is an immense time commitment for Sullivan — having left town three times already, "and when we meet," she continued, "it's a full day affair. It's been a big commitment, which is important because in the process you don't want to cut any corners."

Student Government Association President Sam Rodriguez '04 noted, "I did not even realize there was such a strict confidentiality policy until I asked Erin how the search was going."

"They are upholding a strict confidentiality policy which allows the committee members to speak freely," said Rodriguez.

"*The Campus* as well as the rest of the student body should know that I am privy to just as much information as anybody else," he admitted.

"On a selfish note, I prefer to know what's going on. But we shouldn't mistake a lack of information for inactivity."

Mountain Club bears blame for burst pipe

Continued from page 1

weekend of February Outdoor Orientation (FOO). Zummo notes that it could have been any one of a number of people not connected with the MMC who left the window open, as the nearly 200 participants in FOO pass through the gear office to get snowshoes and other supplies for the weekend's trips.

Even more puzzling is the fact that the FOO co-organizers, Nicole Morris '04.5 and Lauren Sherman '05.5 do not remember a window being open. Morris said that "half of the FOO groups went up to the gear office" to return gear on Sunday, and that when Morris and Sherman closed up the MMC at around 5 p.m. on Sunday, they did not notice an open window.

Zummo agreed that "people are questioning whether the window was open." Given the extreme cold felt by all in FOO over the weekend, Hale wonders whether "the MMC office was in the wrong place at the wrong time," adding, "Adirondack House is a very old building."

Zummo lamented that it is "really unclear how we'll get out of this," but adds that MMC members are willing to sell themselves to keep trips free.

"In a month, if our budget is still frozen," Zummo said, "we are prepared to have a date auction to rally student support."

Social Houses offer outlet

A look at Middlebury's ever-evolving social scene, Part 1

By Andrea Gissing
Associate Editor

When one thinks about the social houses on campus, more often than not thoughts turn to one word: parties. It's true — the great migration of students from the center of campus to the peripheries, either southwest to the Ridgeline houses, east to The Mill or southeast to KDR is a usual sighting on Friday and Saturday nights. However, those which are — or aspire to be — major players in the ongoing soap opera of Middlebury social life are being faced with a growing number of obstacles, from burst pipes to serious overcrowding at open parties to the changing face of the Middlebury social scene. Middlebury is currently in a period of flux: J-Term is under review, the physical landscape of the College is changing as buildings are being built and closed down, the President is ending his tenure and (temporarily) half of the campus will have to learn to walk north across Route 125 in order to have breakfast, even if their first class is in the CFA. As the College is evolving, it is time now to examine the evolution of organized social life on campus.

Members of Kappa Delta Rho (KDR), Omega Alpha (Tavern), Xenia House, Alpha Delta Phi (ADP), Zeta Theta Phi (ZOO) and the Mill are quick to point out that parties are not, and should not be, the only aspect of the social house system that is acknowledged by both the student body and the administration. "Social houses fill the on-campus roll of providing a safe, regulated party environment where students can congregate and have fun," said President of KDR Timothy Bagley '04, "but to the individual, social houses mean much more. They give students the ability to meet new people, to become a part of something." Bagley emphasizes the social aspect of the house as being one of its major selling points. "KDR has always been a large part of my social life, as have the other social houses."

When I was a freshman I was presented with the dilemma of choosing which party to attend every weekend. — Tim Bagley '04

"Being in KDR has enhanced the typical college experience for me," he continued. "College is about education, friends, having fun and self-discovery. Living in the house is endless entertainment."

Currently, just under 15 percent of the student body belongs to a social house, including spring pledges. ADP is the largest house by membership with 97 members, ZOO has 60, KDR 57, The Mill 50, Tavern 46 and Xenia is the smallest with 27. The number of students who rushed this spring was between 40 and 45. While participation is down from the fall, Karen Guttentag, assistant dean of Student Affairs, says that it is normal to have smaller spring pledges.

The most common reason why current members have pledged the houses that they did was because of their connection with those already in the house. "Initially, I pledged ZOO because I knew some of the current members who often talked about how much they enjoyed ZOO," said Leigh Taylor '05. "I was also encouraged by the fact that a lot of my friends were pledging."

"I think the members find that living in a co-ed house of friends who have shared a common experience, or being part of that environment as a non-resident member, creates a smaller community for them within the larger College population," explained Guttentag.

However, while the houses are centers for social activity on campus, it is not all fun and games for members. "The need for these communities to function within the framework of College policy to fulfill their housing obligations, host events and access funds also requires house leaders to be organized and effective at advising their membership," said Guttentag. As she notes, sometimes "unwieldy memberships" may create new problems for houses, the primary hosts of all-campus events on weekends. Indeed many problems — due to bursting pipes or otherwise -— have resulted in setbacks to the development of the houses. For instance, ADP will be subject to custodial inspections in an effort to keep the house clean. ZOO, which has been severely handicapped since undivulged incidents in J-Term prompted a self-imposed sanction, has been working hard to reestablish itself in the eyes of the College. "In general," Taylor said, "I think the social houses are perceived in a negative light. I understand the system has problems, but I think they are problems that will persist even if the social houses don't."

Photo Illustration/Vlad Lodoaba

"I feel that ZOO was a stronger organization when I first came to Middlebury," she continued. "I think members felt a deeper obligation to the house, which is something we're trying to bring back."

Nicole Grohoski '05, president of Xenia House, agrees. "In general, I think the social houses are stereotyped probably more than is fair and that people don't realize how much sacrifice members of the house have to make to provide social opportunities for the whole campus." Grohoski is proud of the developments that Xenia has made during her time at Middlebury. "I think the house has become a little more known since I have been a student and that some of the stereotypes about us are being dispelled." She cites playing boardgames on weekends and a uniform background as some of these stereotypes.

"Many students are unaware of the responsibilities that social house membership brings with it," said Laura Lindel '04, vice-president of KDR. "Students should respect the openness of the social house system on campus and the hospitality of and social environment provided by each house. They should recognize that they are welcome in any house on campus, but that to members, social houses are much more than just a party space, and deserve to be respected."

Social houses provide the student body with a safe environment for social interaction. Though it has been observed that the number of events hosted has decreased in recent memory — "When I was a freshman, I was presented with the dilemma of choosing which party to attend every weekend," said Bagley, "houses registered twice as many parties my freshman semester as they do now" — they are still an important outlet for the entire student body, a recent constant in the changing nature of Middlebury social life.

public safety log

FEBRUARY 24 TO FEBRUARY 29, 2004

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
2/24/04	10:20 a.m.	Vandalism	Structure	Davis	No Suspects
2/25/04	9:40 p.m.	Theft	Wallet	Bicentennial Hall	Open
2/25/04	10:59 p.m.	Vandalism	Door Glass	Gifford	No Suspects
2/27/04	1:30 p.m. - 12:05 a.m.	Collision	Vehicle/Hit/ Run	G Lot	MPD
2/29/ 04	12:36 a.m.	Vandalism	Vending Machine	Stewart	No Suspects
2/29/04	8:47 p.m.	Vandalism	Men's Restroom/ Wall Tiles	Proctor	No Suspects
2/29/04	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Theft	Jacket	Proctor	Open

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY CAROLINE STAUFFER AND DANIEL PHILLIPS

Harvard assists low-income students

Lawrence H. Summers, president of Harvard University, announced Sunday that students whose parents earn less than $40,000 no longer have to make any contribution toward the cost of tuition at the institution. Such families formerly had to pay $2300 per year. The University has also lowered the amount it expects from families with incomes between $40,000 and $60,000.

Officials believe Harvard is the first selective college to completely remove parental contributions for low-income students. The cut was made in order to shrink the widening gap of attendance for students of varying monetary classes. Focus groups with students last fall revealed that of the few students attending Harvard from low-income families, many were actually covering any tuition costs not covered by work-study and financial aid themselves.

The initiative will cost the University approximately $2 million next year and is estimated to help about 1,000 of the 6,600 undergraduates.

— Source: *The New York Times*

Baylor Editorial, President clash

After the Editorial Board of The Baylor Lariat opined that gay couples should be granted the same rights to legal marriage as heterosexual couples, the President of the University Robert B. Sloan Jr. released a statement claiming he was "outraged."

"Espousing in a Baylor publication a view that is so out of touch with traditional Christian teachings is not only unwelcome, it comes dangerously close to violating University policy, as published in the Student Handbook, prohibiting the advocacy of any understandings of sexuality that are contrary to biblical teaching," he said.

Sloan claimed the editorial did not reflect the opinion of the University's administration, faculty, staff, Board of Regents or the majority of Baylor's 14,000 students and 100,000 alumni.

The staff's editorial is in response to the city of San Francisco challenging the state of California, where the state constitution defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. The staff supports the city's lawsuit against the state.

— Source: Baylor University Website

Yale president named to intelligence panel

Last month President George W. Bush appointed Yale University President Richard C. Levin to a bipartisan committee to examine American intelligence gathering. The panel will investigate apparent failures regarding Saddam Hussein's weapons capabilities and "examine intelligence on weapons of mass destruction" and other threats, said Bush. The committee is expected to issue recommendations by the end of this month.

The appointment came at a time when Democrats have been stepping up criticism of the Republican administration's exaggeration of the threat posed by Saddam, which helped bolster the initiative for a U.S.-led invasion of Iraq last year.

Levin, president of Bush's alma mater, was honored by the appointment to work with such a distinguished group of citizens. "We need to be sure that our intelligence gathering operations serve the nation most effectively," said Levin last month.

— Source: *CNN.com*

localnews

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CAMPAIGN ENDED BUT DEAN KEEPS GOING

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BREWERY BOTTLES UP NEW BEERS

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CITY HOSTS ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

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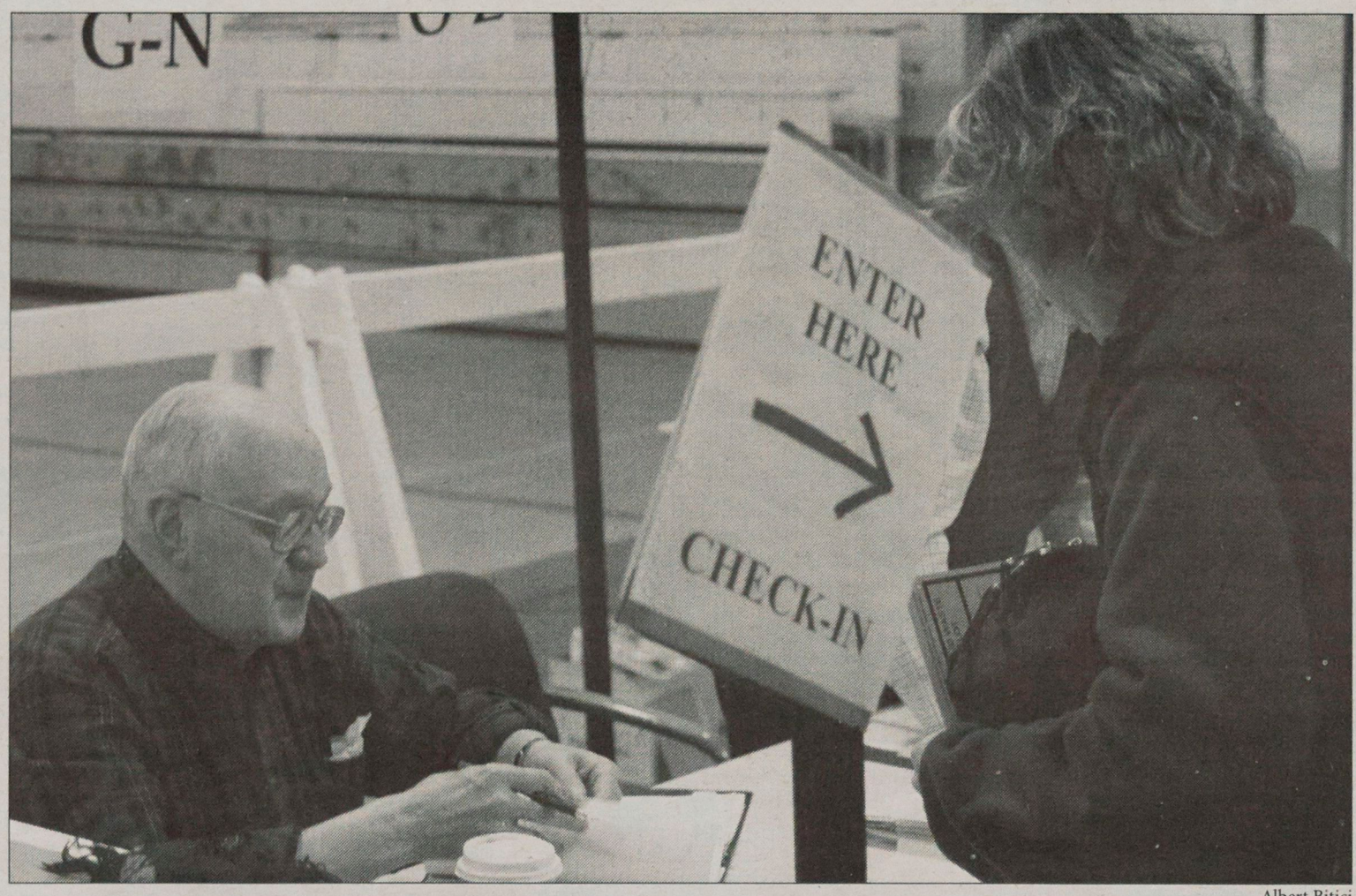
CHURCH STREET SUSHI
AUTHENTIC JAPANESE CUISINE IN CENTRAL BURLINGTON



Albert Bitici

An election day volunteer at the polling station in the municipal gym helps local residents check in before casting their ballots.

Dean triumphs in Vermont primary

Former Governor takes first primary in home state

By Joshua Carson
Local News Editor

Howard Dean continued to shock the county as he won his first Democratic primary on Tuesday in Vermont even though he stopped his formal campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination following a defeat in the Wisconsin primary three weeks ago. Although Dean had bowed out of the race, the electorate of Vermont handed him a conciliatory victory in his home state.

Garnering almost 60 percent of the vote, Dean handed John Kerry — the Democratic Senator from Massachusetts and clear front-runner in the race — a decisive, yet inconsequential defeat. Kerry continued to thrive on the momentum he had fostered throughout the primary season and rolled to victory through the nine other States holding primaries on Tuesday, forcing his only legitimate opponent, Senator John Edwards from South Carolina, to drop out of the race.

I wanted to thank him for putting himself out there.

— A Middlebury voter on her vote for Dean

At the Middlebury polls on Tuesday, workers stated there had been a steady flow of voters throughout the day — more so than in previous years.

One woman who voted for Dean said that she wanted to make a symbolic gesture. "I wanted to thank him for putting himself out there," she said.

Another voter said that she was contemplating a vote for Dean but decided against it. "I thought about voting for Howard Dean but he dropped out of the race," she said. "I felt like putting my vote for a cause. I could have made a statement by voting for him but I decided not to."

Instructor in History Amy Morsman is a volunteer with the organization Vermonters for Dean where she helps to organize local events and leads the Dean MeetUp for Addison County. When Howard Dean announced he would stop actively campaigning for the Democratic nomination, many of the people who regularly attended the weekly MeetUps were dejected and confused — unsure of how to continue.

"Everyone has the right to cast their vote for whomever they choose," Morsman wrote in a letter to the Addison Independent which was not published, "but for those of you who have supported Dean in the past and are wondering what to do on Town Meeting Day, here's my advice: go to the polls and cast your vote for Dean."

Clearly, many others felt the same way.

Even if Dean did not carry his home State, Morsman believed that by voting for Dean, the issues that he fought for in his campaign would be kept alive and those candidates that continue to run will begin to adopt them as their own.

Moreover, the more votes that Dean gets, the more delegates he is able to send to the Democratic National Convention this summer. These delegates will be able to help build and influence the party platform brining up issues that were important to Dean and to his campaign.

The Vermont primary received almost no coverage from the national press corps and little attention from the candidates themselves as the new front-loaded primary schedule forces candidates to make the simple decision to campaign in large contentious states rather than small and less symbolic ones. Thus no candidate was actively campaigning in Vermont and the primary was largely overshadowed by elections in states like New York, which has 236 delegates, California with 370 delegates and Ohio, a predicted battleground state for the Presidency this November.

Albert Bitici

Two local residents contemplate the candidates and cast their ballots at the polls on Tuesday.

As the initial front-runner, Howard Dean scared many candidates away from campaigning in Vermont as it was assumed he would easily carry his home state. That, coupled with the prospect of winning only 15 delegates — about one percent of the number needed to win the nomination — led no candidate to spent much money or time trying to win the primary. John Edwards did not even attempt to get on the ballot.

Secretary of the College and Professor of Political Science Eric Davis predicted a relatively strong performance for Dean, perhaps greater than any other state that he has competed in thus far, but viewed any showing as largely symbolic. The question now concerns what role the massive grassroots groundswell that Dean cultivated will play in he upcoming presidential election.

Davis sees most Vermonters that initially supported Dean heading over to the Kerry campaign — no so much because of enthusiastic support for Kerry, but rather with the notion of "Anyone other than George W. Bush."

Otter Creek brews up two new beers

Brewery prepares to release flavorful beers for the summer season

By Dan Polifka
Staff Writer

Otter Creek Brewing, located on Exchange Street in Middlebury, has announced plans to release two new beers in the coming months, just in time for the summer season. One, named Wit Bier, is a mildly-spiced "white beer," while the other, Middlebury Ale, is a fruity ale whose flavor is inspired by the elderberries that grow along Otter Creek, the brewery's namesake.

The company has been around since 1991 and has grown dramatically in size since it moved to its present location in 1995. The new beers were created to quench growing demand as well as to quench the local desire for more seasonal beverages.

What started as a local, one drink — Copper Ale — micro-brewery has evolved into a larger business encompassing two labels, Wolaver's Certified Organic and Otter Creek. Now, 12 different drinks, seasonal and year round, are produced at the brewery. Despite a distribution network that has spread to 21 states, Otter Creek has never lost touch with its small roots. As the company has grown in scope, it has begun participating in a Vermont sweepstakes and the upcoming Earth Day celebration.

The quality-friendly nature of their brewing technique is further evidence of Otter Creek's commitment to maintaining a small, personal company. "We brew and bottle all of our beers in small batches to ensure freshness and consistent quality. We use natural Vermont water, the best domestic malt and hops available and our own top-fermenting yeast," states their website. "Our brewery and our Wolaver's brands," it continues, "are certified organic by Vermont Organic Farmers."

Yet, as opportunities to expand have arisen, the company has taken advantage of them. "Based on the success of Otter Creek's Vermont Lager, Alpine Ale and Wolaver's organic Oatmeal Stout, all released in 2003, we feel the marketplace is looking for new and interesting beers from our brewery," said Morgan Wolaver, company president. "Steve Parkes' brewing expertise has everyone here waiting for his next new release."

The first of those new releases, the Wit Bier, is coming from the Wolaver's side of the operation, which prides itself on using at least 98 percent organic ingredients. It will be brewed in the Belgian style with organic barley, wheat and hops and will be mildly spiced with orange peel and coriander.

Flavored with elderberries, The Middlebury Ale will maintain the creamy texture and naturally smooth carbonation that has made Otter Creek a favorite across the country and particularly amongst locals and college students in Middlebury.

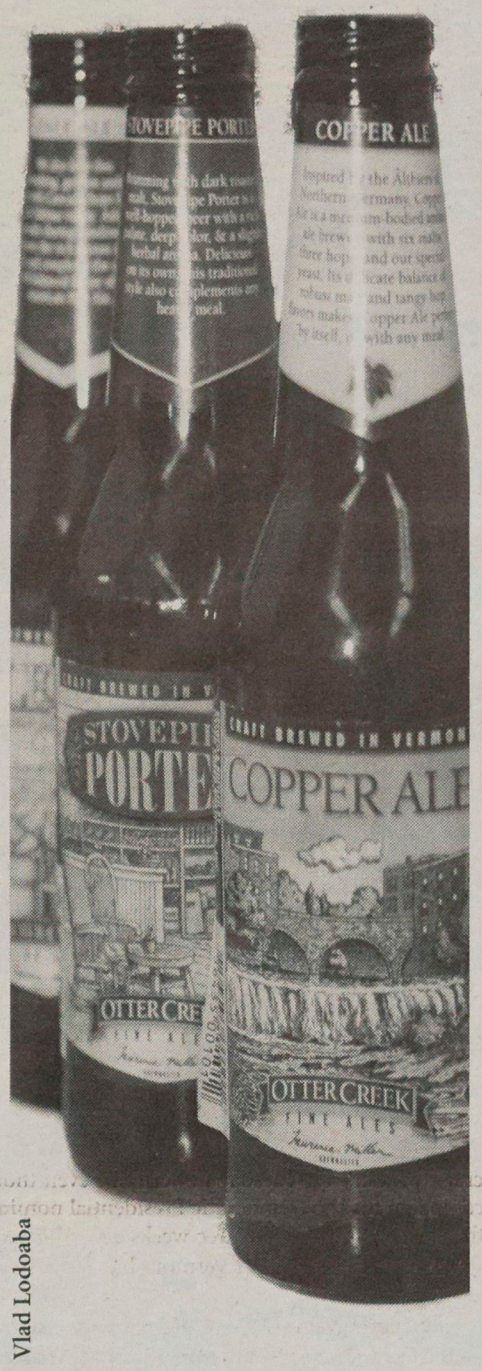
Both new beers will be available in bottles as well as on draft, and beer enthusiasts can expect to see them along with Otter Creek's ever-expanding catalog of beverages in local stores, restaurants and pubs this spring.

SPIKING YOUR FONDUE

2 c semi-sweet chocolate
2/3 c milk chocolate
1 tsp. vanilla
1 bottle Wolaver's organic oatmeal stout (you can use more or less, depending on desired consistency)
1 tbls. butter (optional)
Strawberries (or other fruit) for dipping

Melt chocolate in double boiler with oatmeal stout. When everything is melted, add vanilla, and butter if desired.
Dip strawberries, or apples, pears, etc.
Delicious.

SOURCE: www.ottercreekbrewing.com



Vlad Lodoaba

Flower show cultivates smiles

By Kelsey Rhinehart
Staff Writer

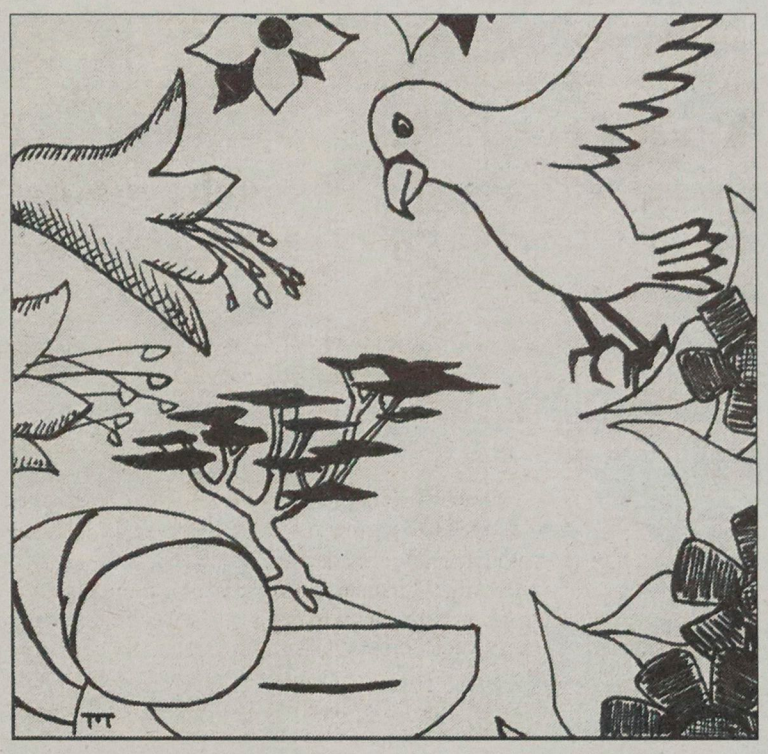
There is only one occasion that brings together bonsai trees, a squawking raptor, boxes of squirming worms and thousands of flowers bursting into bloom — the Vermont Flower Show. The 10th annual show, sponsored by the Vermont Association of Professional Horticulturists and held from Feb. 27 to 29, explored the theme of "Water, Willows and Wizards" in myriad ways, from the elegant displays of the professional floral competition to whimsical wizard capes designed in the children's activities room. All the blossoming magic was contained within the walls of the Sheraton Hotel in South Burlington.

Hundreds of tables lined a long hallway as florists, compost experts, artists, landscapers, wildlife experts and farmers displayed their talents and products and waited for interested customers. Representing Middlebury at the flower show were the Middlebury Fence Company and Vermont Natural Agricultural Products, which sold gigantic bags of their famous organic fertilizer, MOO. Middlebury students who have taken ES 112 remember the unbelievably pungent odor permeating the MOO-making facility, while those who have not have certainly seen MOO stickers adorning Nalgenes around campus.

Near the MOO stand, a pussy willow vendor handed over armfuls of his twisting, vertical plants, which reached out of their large buckets and snaked towards the ceiling. Next to him, volunteers from Outreach for Earth Stewardship (OES) taught visitors about birds. One OES worker tried to calm a fluffy raptor, whose head jerked around nervously as he inspected the people ogling him. The volunteers offered "Working with Raptors" sessions and handed out literature on helping and rehabilitating birds of all varieties.

One vendor that stood out from the rest was the "Down to Earthworms Farm," which educated visitors about the benefits of using compost worms. Understanding the aversion to the creepy crawlers, worker Lynette Courtney insisted, "You don't have to love worms to love worm castings." Worm castings, she explained, are a high quality fertilizer and the product of hours of arduous labor, both on the part of the worms and of those who work with them.

"They compost their little hearts out," she declared, adding that she and her fellow workers had spent hours inspecting, sifting, sorting, bagging and labeling the worm castings to sell at the flower show. Courtney was excited to describe the worms' magic and show their floral achievements to inquisitive visitors.



The flower show featured several seminars, all of a certain enchanted or magical nature, of course, including "Gardening for Little Wizards" and "Growing and Using Herbs for the Palate, for Health, and for Beauty." Vendors offered tempting samples of herbal products, including pretzel dips, body lotions and aromatic oils.

Other gastronomic delights to be sampled included fresh salsa, chocolate, jams and jellies, pure Vermont maple syrup and honey.

The central floral attraction was a jungle of trees, bushes and flowers enveloping a large hall. Visitors were invited to meander through the flora to admire the gurgling brook and buzzing model train. The display was flanked by more vendors, who continued to hawk anything and everything having to do with horticulture, landscaping and agriculture.

Visitors left the flower show with considerably more than they arrived with, lugging lily bulbs, bags of MOO mix and, undoubtedly, enough pamphlets to cover a small country. And all vowed that they would be back next year for more floral magic.

RURAL REALITIES

By Crystal Belle

As the icy temperatures warmed up to a whopping 40 degrees last weekend, some friends and I decided to take an excursion up to Dartmouth for their Hip-Hop Conference. We thought we should visit another college inside the New England bubble, in order to escape the typical Winter Carnival events. So there we were, in our school-spirited Middlebury van, driving along I-89, heading to Hanover, N.H. We left early, making sure not to miss Hip-Hop scholar Tricia Rose, professor from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Two hours later, we arrived at Dartmouth University. The campus was huge, scattered, disconnected and simply non-Middlebury. We all looked through the thick van window with curious eyes, picturing how each of us would survive here. We realized that maybe we really loved Middlebury in our own special ways.

The first event of the morning was Tricia Rose's lecture on Hip-Hop culture. We walked in slightly late from our road trop, but managed to find breakfast and seats. And the first words we heard were: "Why must hip-hop artists exploit the ghetto in order to sell records?" We were all intently focusing on this strong black woman, who had a smirk on her face and prolific knowledge in her brain. She knew about every rapper, the ins and outs of the music industry and was a product herself of an urban childhood. She was like a miracle — as I was finally seeing someone who was directly connected to hip-hop culture speaking about it. She didn't have to rely much on theories — although she did use them — because she knew exactly what ghetto life was like. It made her approach both authentic and engaging.

Her voice was confident, passionate and powerful as she talked about artists like Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg and DMX. This 40-something-year-old scholar not only knew every artist by name, but also knew the personalities and characters of each one. We all sat there in awe, deeply wishing that she, or someone like her, taught at Middlebury. We needed our campus to hear this lecture, for, as she stated, many white kids from the suburbs listen to hip-hop on a "superficial basis," sometimes failing to truly understand the nature of the lyrics, only focusing on the "hot" Neptune beat. As the audience clapped and shouted out "oh yeahs" as if in a black church, we, the students of Middlebury, nodded our heads in approval of this remarkable lecture, thoroughly happy about our morning commute.

The afternoon continued with workshops that ranged from beat production to dee-jaying to hip-hop dancing. Students, faculty and town residents attended each workshop on that cultural Saturday afternoon in the heart of New Hampshire. Hopefully, a replica of this event will soon occur in the heart of Middlebury, Vt.

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College spreads the wealth

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

amount of the gift will be around $6.5 million for the 20-year period. "The amounts in question reflect our best estimate of the College's fair share of usage of Town Services projected out over the next decade, during which it is more probable that costs will go up than that they will go down," McCardell said.

Also built into the agreement is an opt-out clause to cover any unexpected issues that may arise. The plan initially covers 10 years, beginning in July of 2004, and is automatically renewed every year unless one side chooses to opt out, in which the agreement will come to an end nine years from the time of termination. If neither side decides to opt-out of the agreement, the current Fair-Share plan will expire in June of 2024. President McCardell noted, however, "I suspect this agreement will remain in place indefinitely. Only if the legislature votes to remove our tax-exempt status would this agreement be annulled."

To preface this announcement, McCardell focused on the shared history of the town and the College. He pointed out that Middlebury is one of the few colleges founded at the turn of the 19th century that was named after a place, rather than a person. Williams, Amherst and Dartmouth are a few examples of the latter. From their earliest days, the town and the College formed what McCardell termed a "special symbiotic relationship" where, in fact, Middlebury drew heavily on Addison County residents for financial support. In fact, the first endowed professorship at the College, the Miller Professorship in the Sciences, was funded by a resident of Middlebury.

The amounts in question reflect our best estimate of the College's fair share usage of Town Services ... over the next decade.

— John McCardell

In 1994, College officials decided to take action to further its goal of "being a good citizen by providing opportunities and stepping forward in times of need," according to McCardell. Out of a desire to contribute to the town, as well as to ease the property tax burden of local residents, the College made the offer of the first Fair-Share gift. Not wanting the relationship to be based on a purely mathematical equation, the college gave the gift outright and failed to name a specific formula for determining the nature of the gift. When the time came to renew the agreement, town officials and a committee from the College gathered to draft a new proposal to meet the changing needs of both parties.

Director of Public Affairs Phil Benoit served on the committee which drafted the new agreement. Benoit characterized the drafting process by stating, "the discussions that led to the agreement were, to a large degree, education sessions for both the representatives of the town and the College. Those of us representing the College learned more about the financial pressures faced by the town and the mechanics of producing revenues via the municipal tax structure. The town representatives learned more about the pressures on the College's budget caused by the recent economic downturn, which eroded the book value of the endowment."

Selectboard Chair John Tenny accepted the College's latest gift and praised both sides of the bargaining table for a "process made possible through open channels of communication." In addition, Tenny noted that President McCardell and the administration have always recognized and supported the bond between town and College, and that the actions of Middlebury College have, in fact, encouraged other local tax-exempt organizations, for example several local churches, to step forward and give their own gifts to the town.

The town's largest taxpayer, Middlebury College, will continue to pay taxes on areas not covered by their tax-exempt status, such as gains made in the endowment and water and power use. The new gift, however, will further work towards strengthening ties and reducing the tax burden on local residents.

Benoit summed up the goals of many of those involved in the drafting process saying, "The process resulted in a strengthening of the already strong town/College relationship and an increased recognition on both parts that the College and the town each benefit tremendously from the other's contributions to our mutual ability to thrive. From the College's perspective, the gift recognizes in a tangible way the value of the town to the well being of the College. The fact that the town was involved in helping the College to arrive at the appropriate size of the gift and the means by which it will be delivered, indicates a very strong and cordial relationship between the two entities."

THE POSTAL SERVICE

Vlad Lodoaba

Delivering the mail with a kick, Dan Monger of the United States Postal Service runs his daily route along College Street.

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BY: J.P. ALDI & BENJI PADILLA

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SAT: 11:30- 2:30

One of the first restaurants to offer sushi in Burlington, the Sakura Japanese Restaurant nicely blends its Eastern flavor with its quaint Church Street Marketplace surroundings. Ron Takahashi founded the restaurant in 1987.

With its convenient location on Burlington's "main drag," Sakura is perfect for a post-shopping bite or a dinner with friends. Its casual, relaxed environment creates an ambience well suited for conversation.

Patrons can choose to sit at the traditional sushi bar or at Eastern-style tables with Tatami mats, or they can opt for a Western-style table with chairs. Sakura is open for both lunch and dinner, and it also accommodates take-out orders.

The menu at Sakura presents an array of authentic Japanese cuisine. One can choose from the sushi menu or from their more complete dinner menu, which offers dishes ranging from beef to seafood.

One particularly interesting item on the dinner menu, perfect for a college student dining out, is the "Dinner Box." This option allows you to select from a list of entrée items, which vary from tempura to sushi. Essentially, you are allowed to create your own meal. The box is served with miso soup, a salad dressed in authentic ginger dressing and a curious side dish, which I was later told was seaweed. For those of us on a budget, the "Dinner Box" is reasonably priced at $12, while the rest of the entrées are priced in the mid teens.

The sushi menu at Sakura is both traditional and creative. Unlike the entrée menu, however, these items are a bit more expensive. Patrons can order rolls à-la-carte priced at roughly $1.25 a roll, or they can enjoy a mixed platter of assorted rolls, sashimi and nigiri sushi.

If you come with a group of sushi enthusiasts, the "Sushi Heaven" presents a smart option. This platter includes almost 30 pieces and is served in a basket that resembles a Japanese fishing skiff.

What makes Sakura truly interesting is that in order to interact with its customer base, the chefs attempt to infuse their Eastern cuisine with some of the flavor of their western surroundings. For example, one can find on the sushi menu a roll called the "Pizza Roll" or the "Mexican Roll."

Included on the dessert menu from time to time is something called "Green Tea Cheesecake." These hybrid offerings can be found scattered throughout Sakura's menu, allowing patrons to appreciate a mix of east-meets-west.

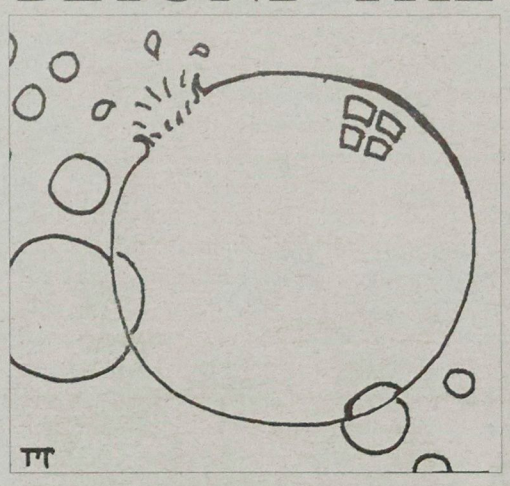
Despite the interesting menu and comfortable ambience, my dining experience at Sakura left me with a slightly bad taste in my mouth. Although the food was good, the service was disjointed and slow — one might even say a little raw.

Ultimately, this restaurant deserves a second chance. The menu offers creative and affordable options that nobody — especially sushi lovers — should simply take my word for.

Nonetheless, my verdict on Sakura stands: tasty in substance yet bitter in delivery.

BEYOND THE BUBBLE

BY LISIE MEHLMAN, LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

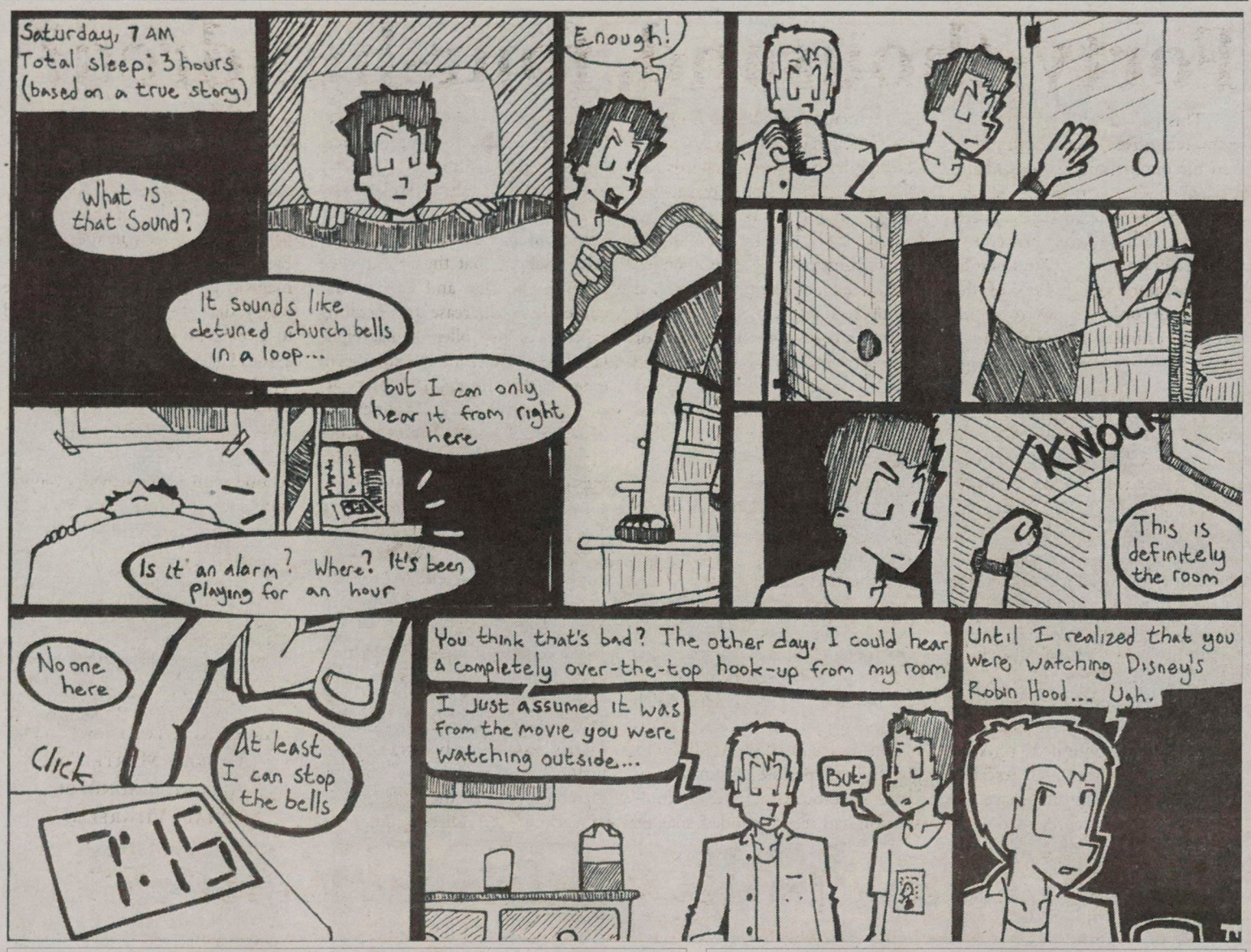


Remember those loud model trains that churned along a track through your dentist's office? Well, now you can enjoy them without the pain of an oafish, mustached dentist yanking at your teeth. The Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Society is holding its model train show on Saturday, March 13 in Essex Junction. For just four dollars, from 10 until 4, you can see operating railroads of all different sizes, as well as over 120 other exhibits. The show will be held at the Champlain Valley Exposition, Route 15, Essex Junction. For more information, call 802-878-1135.

Frustrated with schoolwork? Need to get out some aggression? Why not do it the old-fashioned way and visit Rick's Gun Shop. There, you can pick up a bow and arrow and shoot some archery in the shop's indoor range. For directions or for more information on this activity, contact Rick's shop at 802-626-1014.

With Mardi Gras sadly behind us, it is time to forget the French and focus on the Irish at the Burlington Irish Heritage Festival. This week-long festival commences on Friday, March 12 in Burlington's City Hall and will feature activities from movies to music to dance, all of which celebrate Irish-American culture and community. Call 802-658-6353 for more information.

In the mood for folk rock? This Saturday, the Ripton Community Coffee House, a nonprofit concert series, will feature Patrick Fitzsimmons. Fitzsimmons began his musical career as a member of the folk rock band From Good Homes. The band recorded three albums in the late 90s and shared the stage with artists ranging from Bob Dylan to Dave Matthews Band. Now living in Vermont and working on his solo career, Fitzsimmons has recorded two albums. To hear him perform, head on down to the Ripton Community Center at 8:30 p.m. this Saturday.


Saturday, 7 AM
Total sleep: 3 hours
(based on a true story)
What is that Sound?
It sounds like detuned church bells in a loop...
but I can only hear it from right here
Is it an alarm? Where? It's been playing for an hour
No one here
Click
At least I can stop the bells
7:15
Enough!
KNOCK
This is definitely the room
You think that's bad? The other day, I could hear a completely over-the-top hook-up from my room
I just assumed it was from the movie you were watching outside...
But-
Until I realized that you were watching Disney's Robin Hood... Ugh.

Editorial

The Heavy Hand of Discipline

Call it discipline central. The Community Council's subcommittee on social houses voted unanimously to deny Zeta Theta Phi (ZOO) residential space for the coming academic year. The recommendation increases the chance that ZOO will become a vagrant social house, deprived of any real estate to facilitate its rebuilding. And as ZOO edges closer to homeless status, the Council has yet to delineate any public charges against it.

Meanwhile, College officials froze the Middlebury Mountain Club's (MMC) budget amidst allegations that its membership left a window open in the Adirondack House gear room.

The oversight ultimately caused a pipe to burst, flooding parts of the Career Services Office below. Now the MMC cannot even gas up its vans to transport members to recreational sites. So much for the great outdoors.

This pair of punitive measures impacts a wide circle of students. The MMC claims the largest membership of any student organization on campus, and ZOO is one of just six social houses. This administrative meddling has effectively paralyzed two important organizations.

Surely, nobody wants to dispense with the rule of law and transform campus life into a free for all. Administering justice, however, should never compromise extracurricular life on campus.

Check authoritarianism at the College gate.

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's Web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

In the Feb. 19 edition's, "Notes from the Desk," the authors voiced concern over the state of the feminist movement not only on Middlebury's campus, but also in the nation at large and tried to enlighten us as to the "true nature of the feminist movement." At least that is apparently what they thought they were doing. What they were in fact doing was attempting to reduce a complex political and social movement that has evolved over the last 200-plus years to a poster that was created by an unknown individual and put on the wall in the Cook Seminar room. By assuming that this poster, which, I agree with the authors is offensive, anti-social and undemocratic, is representative of the entire feminist movement (or even the radical offshoot of the feminist movement), the authors are enlisting the help not of logic, but of good old irrational stereotypes. Simply because it displays an "anti-male" message, it is immediately identified with feminism. This is taking as fact the stereotype that feminists are "man-haters" that has been around for decades and has been a key tool of anti-feminists to villify the movement. The fact that the authors ally themselves with the use of such a stereotype seems to be working against their message of respect, democracy and equality for all. And so I am left asking myself, in light of this article, why indeed, "should anyone put up with being annoyed and provoked by these rather starkly undemocratic ideas of exclusion of half the world's population?"

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Brookbank '04
Wasilla, Alaska

To the Editor:

I want to thank *The Middlbury Campus* for its well-balanced article about the new room draw system. There were, however, a few things printed that need to be corrected. First, we are NOT eliminating Block Draw as the second paragraph indicated. Instead, we are revamping Block Draw with the new point system that will both allow flexibility, honor seniority and reward continuing commons. Secondly, the quote "There is simply not a huge need for junior room draw" is not what we meant. Rather we said that there was not a huge need for open junior room draw (for those who did not switch commons via block draw or by drawing in with a roommate). Last year very few students came to that draw, and those that did could be just as easily accommodated by "summer draws" rooms, which are predominantly junior rooms. Regular commons' junior draw is extremely important, necessary, and will continue as in the past. I would also like to publicly thank the committee which has worked steadily and devotedly throughout the fall, pouring over pages of numbers and floor plans while meeting with student and administration leaders. We believe we have come up with the best possible plan to balance the competing interests and desires, while creating a fair system that can last for many years. If you have further questions about the new system, we are having a campus-wide open forum in McCullough on Tuesday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m. Please come.

Sincerely,
Dean David Edleson, Dean of Cook Commons
Room Draw Committee Chair

The Middlebury Campus
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Forty-thousand, four-hundred?

This past month we, the SGA Comprehensive Fee Committee, had the opportunity to present the student body's perspective of the comprehensive fee to the College's Board of Trustees. Over the course of J-Term we met with numerous administrators and leaders of the College in order to arrive at an educated estimate of how much the comprehensive fee would need to increase in order to meet the expenses of the College for the upcoming fiscal year. Throughout the course of our research our constant goal was to represent the student body, which we felt would like to see as little increase in the fee as possible.

There are numerous factors that justify the need for an increase in the College's comprehensive fee. Among these are the economic situation of the last several years, which greatly decreased the value of the College's endowment, inflationary pressures on utilities and wages and the College's continued physical expansion. After thorough research we presented a comprehensive fee of $39,929, which represented a 4.8 percent increase over the fee from last year. Although this projected increase was high by historical standards, we felt that it was the only reasonable way to accommodate for the increased costs faced by the College. The committee also recommended a steady reduction of the fee increase over the next few years to an eventual 4.0 percent. Recently, the Board of Trustees voted to increase the fee by 6.0 percent to a level of $40,400 despite our recommendation. This marks the second year in a row that students have had to face an increase of six percent or above.

We feel that the administration's plan is both inconsiderate to the current student body, and is simply unfeasible over the long run for a few reasons. First, current sophomores and juniors have had to shoulder the burden of a 12.5 percent compounded increase in the comprehensive fee over the last two years. This is the largest two-year increase in the comprehensive fee in 10 years. Additionally, while an increase of four percent for the next four years, as the administration had recommended, may be attainable, we believe it will prove to be impossible due to future building projects and additional necessary expenditures. Finally, President McCardell was quoted in the Feb. 19 edition of *The Middlebury Campus* article stating that the openings of the new Library and Atwater facilities do not increase the operating expenses of the College. However, he failed to account for the significant renewal (depreciation) costs associated with the new facilities and equipment. This important practice of spreading the cost of new buildings out over a long period will cost each student approximately $800 to $1,000 annually in perpetuity.

We maintain the administration's long-term position is both unrealistic and unfair to students. The College must realize that it cannot increase the level of its endowment while simultaneously keeping up with the same level of facility upgrading as it has done in past years. Money would be better spent on further improving academic life, thereby increasing the attractiveness of teaching at Middlebury. Although the comprehensive fees of other colleges have not yet been publicly released, it is reasonable to assume that Middlebury will further solidify its position as one of the most expensive institutions in the country. Even with the continued commitment to need-blind admissions, we worry that the high fees will lead to a perception of Middlebury as a social elitist institution. Prospective high school students looking at school statistics before applying will certainly be turned off by the price differential between Middlebury and schools with arguably better reputations such as Harvard and Williams. Ultimately, the Trustees and the administration should remember that while Middlebury should strive to remain academically competitive with these institutions, the College should not lose sight of price competition, as well.

Christian Hicks '06,
Amichai Kilchevsky '04.5,
Andrew Martel '04,
Alison Thaung '06,
Michael Vilarello '05

Room draw policy adds new stress

One of Middlebury's general strengths is the administration's reliance on committees in which the opinions and desires of the student body are taken into account when making important decisions regarding student life. The committee responsible for amending the room draw policy at first glance seems no exception to this trend. But the implications of the modified policy it has recently adopted make me seriously question its decision making process.

While in principle a viable alternative to the arbitrary and often stressful system of the past, the new proposal alters the block draw procedure in a way that makes the group of students it most directly concerns, rising seniors, at a sudden disadvantage because of the radical new emphasis on promoting commons loyalty. As a result, many students who until last week had as decent a chance as anyone else of getting top housing for next year in their current commons will be unlikely to get a senior block at all, in any commons. The new block draw system's fundamental flaw lies in its failure to apply the new "points procedure" to the current batch of students, who until very recently had no knowledge that such a change was even being considered. Since its first year at Middlebury, the Class of '05 has selected its housing under the rational expectation that the current system of seniority and random number assignment within one's commons and overall would determine the chances for block draw. With this in mind, many students have voluntarily changed commons for various reasons, to live with friends, dissatisfaction with their current commons or even specifically because they wanted a chance at a particular commons' senior housing.

Still others have been denied the option to continue in their initial commons for lack of available housing sophomore year. The new system

I fail to see how the new system could fairly or logically distribute housing.

makes sought-after housing for a student who fits into any one of these categories nearly impossible. Perhaps the new policy's most frustrating aspect is its requirement that a group of students pool all its commons points together, which in turn will determine its chances for a block. If even one member of the group falls short of full commons points, for any of the above reasons, the group's potential bid would be seriously jeopardized.

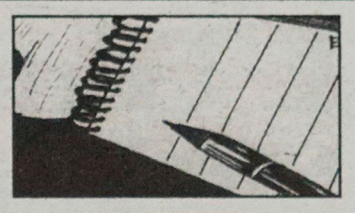
Against the inevitable groups of friends who by planning have all lived in the same commons for three years, the group would have literally no possibility of success. Consequently, the group would either have to restructure its members or abandon the bid altogether. It's easy to see how this new system would not in the least bit reduce room-draw-related confusion or stress. Consider the statement in last week's edition of *The Middlebury Campus* by Dean David Edleson, chairman of the Room Draw Committee: "It really is a matter of priority, living with your friends or living in exactly the room you want to live in."

Assuming students have been aware of the new implications, having guaranteed housing within their commons through junior year is a reasonable proposal. But for those of us who for some reason haven't lived in the same commons all along and/or have friends who haven't, the new system gives very little chance for premium housing senior year. To put it plainly, the logic of the new block draw procedure rests on the assumptions that all rising seniors have a) had the ability to stay within the same commons since their first year and b) known all along that it would be necessary to stay within their commons in order to qualify for top senior housing.

Neither of these premises holds true. Until both do, I fail to see how the new system could fairly or logically distribute housing.Therefore, in light of these problems affecting most of all the Class of 2005, the only reasonable solution seems to be delaying implementation of the new system so that future students can adapt to the radically different requirements concerning block draw and plan accordingly. I strongly encourage anyone who feels the same way as I do to advocate this option.

The fact that these issues weren't overwhelmingly apparent to the Room Draw Committee from the start concerns me and makes me wonder what has happened to a representative student voice at Middlebury. Just as a new commons life system needs to be phased in as a gradual process involving two-way communication between the administration and students, so should the housing selection process itself.

Stephen Markus '05
An English major
from Dallas, Texas.



NOTES
FROM THE DESK

TO: President McCardell

As you begin your one-year hiatus there are a few housekeeping matters worthy of your attention. Mr. President, I've been here three semesters and all I have from you is a handshake at the start of February Orientation last year. Since then, I've rarely seen you around campus. Your decision to judge the Winter Carnival talent show last weekend came as a wonderful surprise.

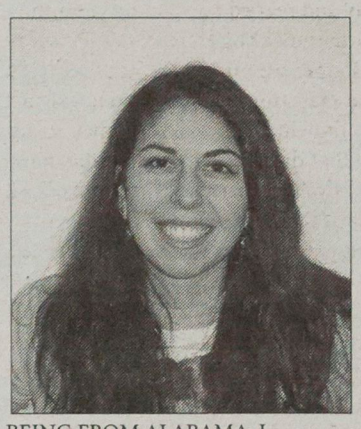
You flashy tuxedo and witty feedback were brilliant on Friday night. I saw a sense of humor, not just the scholarship that comes through in your speeches. For as much as I enjoy your eloquent discourses, you never really descend from the Mead podium. I like looking at the new library, Bicentennial Hall and the workings of a commons system slowly materializing –products of your hard work–but I would much rather have a fun and relaxed conversation with you over chicken parmesan at Proctor.

Here is my proposal: eat three meals a week in college dining halls. Heck, bring a few trustees or promising donors to a meal where the food isn't catered. There can be no better way to pique the interest of a potential donor than by eating a meal with students who will benefit from the donation. I know visiting them works, but therein lies another problem–you, the commander-in-chief, are not here where you belong. Once you sit down at a random table with your red tray, barriers are broken.

In the news section of the paper this week, there is an article about your Farewell Tour. Sadly, this tour involves several trips to Burlington International, not to the Great Hall in Bi-Hall. I'd love to see you sneak up on a focused student and ask them if they like what they're reading. The alumni chapters will love your presence during the tour, but the students need it more. Save the college airfare and work instead on making the rounds to campus events. *Midd This Week* should be your bedside reading. It's time for your own image-raising –not fundraising. I'm a Proctor guy, hope to see you there.

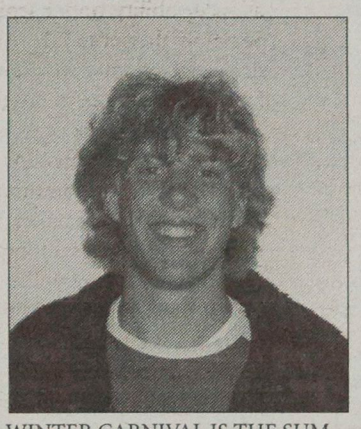
Dave Barker '06.5
Features Editor
The Middlebury Campus

The Middlebury Campus online poll



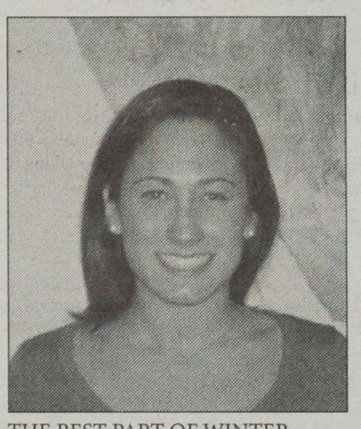
BEING FROM ALABAMA, I THOUGHT THERE WAS GOING TO BE A FERRISWHEEL, NOT SNOW AND SKIING.

—SAGE BIERSTER '07.5



WINTER CARNIVAL IS THE SUM OF ALL TEMPTATIONS. EXCITEMENT FOR RACERS, ATTRACTION FOR THE PUBLIC, AND EUPHORIA FOR THE STUDENTS.

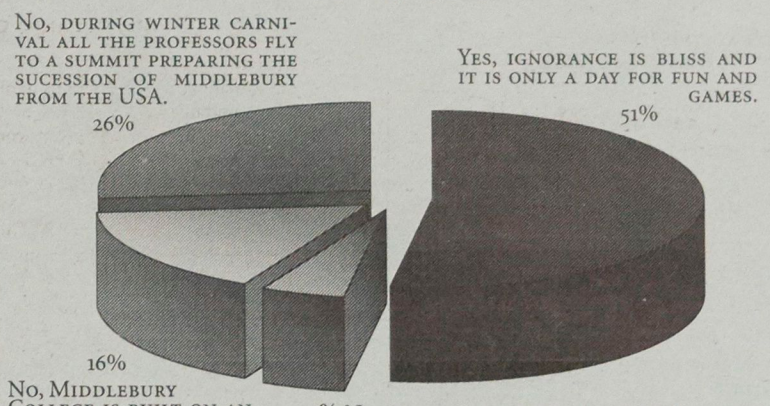
—PHILIP ODQUIST '07



THE BEST PART OF WINTER CARNIVAL IS THE THREE-DAY WEEKEND TO RELAX, HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS, AND ENJOY THE VARIOUS EVENTS THAT TAKE PLACE ON CAMPUS.

—KIM QUICKSILVER '05

IS WINTER CARNIVAL REALLY ABOUT A CARNIVAL IN WINTER OR IS THERE A HIDDEN TRUTH TO THIS DAY OFF?


No, during winter carnival all the professors fly to a summit preparing the sucession of Middlebury from the USA.
26%
Yes, ignorance is bliss and it is only a day for fun and games.
51%
16%
No, Middlebury College is built on an ancient graveyard and the day is necessary to calm the spirits.
7%
No, it is a day for the faculty to secretly honor the president.

Results based on 76 responses collected between Feb. 24 and March 3 at www.middleburycampus.com

Next Week's Poll Question: What's more dangerous, the mud or the ice?

A-Framers and J-Termers: Is this the end of our days?

I can't believe I'm writing this right now. I could be out drinking Guinness and chasing leprechauns. But this is important. There is a nasty trend occurring at Middlebury that needs to be addressed. I've even named it. Behold, (insert suspenseful pause) Middlebury's latest malady: *Fun Genocide.*

Okay, I'll explain. So first there was speculation about J-Term being removed. Of course no one took it too seriously, because, honestly, who gets rid of J-Term? What a joke. But then it was suddenly announced, "And by the way, A-frames are no more." Whoa. One of the most lively, unique and tradition-filled places on campus suddenly was being gutted as housing because of "an agreement made with the adjacent neighborhoods with the building of new senior housing." (P.S. There was no "agreement": the A-frames were *offered* to the neighbors as a sort of sacrifice — in the manner of, "Hey, sorry about all these new senior dorms but *look* — we're killing the frames! Yahoo!") Okay, maybe there was no "Yahoo." But I digress. Now yes, students in the frames may be infamous for being a little rowdier, a little more obnoxious — damn those kids and their 50 Cent! — and perhaps a little more inclined to the drink. I say this not only because I lived there, but also because when talking casually to any professor, I have grown quite used to the inevitable eye-brow lift when I mention my dorm, followed by the, "Oh, you live in the *A-frames*, do you?" (Also, if they are wearing spectacles, they pull them down and peer at me over the top of them at this point, as if suddenly doubtful of my sobriety — even if its only 9 a.m.).

So we've got a bad rap. But let's be honest. While we know there are plenty of other things people do for fun, it should be noted that the social scene at Middlebury *typically* involves at least one of the three following things:

1. Trying to down hard alcohol inconspicuously in a soon-to-be-put-on-probation/warning/suspension/yellow-terrorist-alert Social House.

2. Driving a few miles away to pack 300 kids into a rustic house with far too few kegs, and even fewer designated drivers

3. Until now, hanging out with friends in the interaction-promoting A-frames.

Reason being, the A-frames are the quintessential building-design for a social and friend-building atmosphere. You can't get to your room without walking through the constantly active common-room. You can't stand in the loft common-area without being able to gaze out through the large windows onto the wonderful Middlebury landscape and/or press your bare butt up onto a window itself and moon fellow A-framers as they walk into the building. There is love for all in the frames. So we made the shirts (Save the frames!) and we even promised to stop breaking things. But it was too late. A-frames alumni (and all those who could have been) will now forever have to wonder why. Why in the name of anything holy did Middlebury (in the middle of a housing crunch) scrap one of the parts of it that made it most special?

Which leads me back to J-Term. Whenever I start explaining to my friends during Christmas break why I have to go back to school earlier than them, I clarify that it is because of this cool thing called J-Term, where we have time to ski and make new friends and can take our sleeping bag out of Bi-Hall and live in our real dorm for a few weeks. And when I'm trying to explain this awesome concept, I get this glow about me. I feel really freaking proud to have this J-Term thing. I mean, come on, J-Term is *awesome.* You can pick a subject that has nothing to do with your major — or anything for that matter.

And you can bet someday "Jeopardy" will ask a question about that subject and you'll scream the correct answer to the amazement of your friends (unless one of your friends is Keith Williams) and then you'll say, "That's right, I knew it, because I took 'What Trolls Would Eat if They Weren't Mythical Creatures' during my *J-Term* at Middlebury." And then you'd get that same glow that we all get to have now when talking about what our school has that no other one does.

Let's be honest. I'm exaggerating and being silly. The A-frames are not special because you can moon people through the huge loft window. J-Term is not special because it might give you an edge in some random "Jeopardy" category in 10 years. The reason I am being so inane in this little opinion piece, however, is because I think the ideas of scrapping the A-frames and dumping J-Term really are twice as ludicrous as whatever garbage I could write. I don't need to explain the marvels of the frames because if you've lived there, you know how special they are. I don't need to argue that J-Term should stay, because every one of us knows how special it is. This whole sequence of events is absurd, and I'm getting upset. And I'm in Ireland. No one is sad in Ireland. I guess the best way to explain it is by saying this: Whenever I try to describe the A-frames to someone, and talk about the fun I've had, I get all flustered. And whenever I try to explain the J-Term concept and how it works, I get all flustered. However, when I finally muster an explanation — it ends up being the same for both. All I can say is, "I don't know, I can't put words to it. You just have to experience it. It's amazing."

Are we the last generation of A-framers and J-Termers? Even worse, what source of fun is going to be targeted next? To those making the decisions (notably, non-students), I beg with you, reconsider. And now, I'm going to go drink that Guinness.

Sarah McCabe '05
A pyschology major
Pittsford, N.Y.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Before my senior year, I had always appreciated the unique experiences available during J-Term. For example, two years ago, I took a state and local government class with Madeline Kunin, the former Governor of Vermont. This class afforded me the opportunity to speak with policymakers such as then-Governor Howard Dean and current Governor Jim Douglas '72.

This year, I gained a new appreciation of J-Term. I have been working on a full-year thesis for the Political Science Department and those four weeks in January provided a valuable opportunity to totally focus on researching and writing this paper. In addition to helping my final product, the time I spent studying only international politics gave me a chance to evaluate my academic interests and reflect on whether or not I want to pursue a career in international politics.

A thesis writer's level of enjoyment of his or her topic during January is reflective of how he or she might feel about a graduate degree or career in that subject area. Because students are always torn between multiple classes, a 14-week term does not provide such a preview of the real world. Instead of better preparing Middlebury students for the working world, it would produce even more graduates with incomplete plans for life after college.

Sincerely,
Gregg Eriksen '04.5
Walden, N.Y.

From Frustrated

While reading a recent edition of *The Middlbury Campus*, I couldn't help but become frustrated with Middlebury. The talk of doing away with J-Term, the suspension of ZOO, the new off-campus housing situation and the obscene rise in tuition all make me question what the College is trying to accomplish.

Middlebury is a unique school that has so much to offer every student, and that is a huge reason as to why I chose this school. J-Term is one of the characteristics that many people use as the deciding factor for choosing Middlebury over other NESCAC schools such as Amherst or Trinity. It also presents an opportunity to take classes that wouldn't necessarily be taught here and to gain the perspective and experiences of visiting professors. I don't care if it costs the school more money. We are here to get a well-rounded education and with the rise in tuition we should have a plethora of options.

This College is also known and loved for the mentality of work hard-play hard. The College disbanded fraternities and set up the social house system, which serves you well if you are into that scene. By kicking ZOO out of Palmer House the College is depleting its on campus activity and forcing students to either hang out in their rooms with the same people every weekend, or party off-campus. I personally like partying off-campus because I don't have to worry about security, who I believe to be overly willing to get students in trouble for drinking and even suspended if it comes to that. In my opinion, no student should be suspended for an entire semester due to social issues. This is an academic institution, the only thing that justifies and entire semester of college lost should be academic reasoning. The College should think long and hard about what type of damage this does to students that fall victim to an unjust system. The options for punishment are infinite, but the possibility of an entire semester of suspension is juvenile. The point that I am trying to make is that the college put these social houses in place to encourage the social life on campus. By disbanding ZOO and having enthusiastic security guards dishing out citations, the College is encouraging people to find other places to party and other substances to party with.

The new off-campus housing policy is also something that I find terribly unfortunate.

The reason everyone wants to live off campus is because when you get older it is nicer to have a space

I think that the College is dealing with things that can make or break its future.

that reflects your maturity. It is also nice to be able to socialize in a house away from the campus so that once again you don't have to worry about registering parties, security guards and other problems that you run into when dealing with while trying to have a good time without leaving campus. Living off campus and signing leases with people in Middlebury helps us to become more integrated with the community and invigorate the economy of Addison County to a greater extent than we would living on campus. The College claims that there is a lack of senior leadership on campus but that is for obvious reasons having to do with all of the political issues that need to be dealt with while partying on campus.

I guess that I am very frustrated because I think that the College is dealing with things that can make or break its future. These large changes that the College is making will totally change the appeal of this college to those who are applying, those who end up coming to Middlebury and those who end up staying here (assuming not too many people are going to be scared into transferring). The social houses were brought here to inspire students to have a place to go on the weekends and they are not really serving that purpose anymore because they are afraid of the consequences.

The relationship between the students and the security guards needs to change. Before making these decisions, I think the administration really needs to think long and hard about what they are trying to accomplish and what the long-term repercussions might be and how these decisions will effect the future of Middlebury College.

Ashley Lyddane '06
A american civilizations major
from Greenwich, Conn.

Winter Carnival Social Board 2004

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WINTER CARNIVAL IN PICTURES

Super unnecessary vehicles?

With hybrid SUVs hitting the market next fall, *The Campus* took to Middlebury's parking lots to question our love for gas guzzlers

By Julia McKinnon
Staff Writer

Next time you use "What kind of car do you drive?" as your pick-up line, make sure you're not talking to an environmentalist. On an afternoon in the sophomore parking lot behind the Center for the Arts, all the cars were counted. The numbers revealed that roughly one in three cars in any given Middlebury College parking lot is a Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV). But new alternatives are emerging to provide an environmentally efficient version of today's gas guzzling SUVs.

On Feb. 16 *The New York Times* published an article by Danny Hakim illuminating the benefits of Ford and Toyota's new hybrid SUVs. These car companies plan to launch the partially electric SUVs next fall. Ford will unveil a hybrid version of its Escape sport utility and Toyota is set to release the RX 330 and RX 400 under the Lexus name. According to the article, the SUVs will be more expensive, but consumers concerned about electric cars need not worry because they don't have to be plugged in.

Many people drive SUVs not for their improved handling of treacherous terrain but because of their role as a status symbol. "In New Mexico do you ever need four-wheel-drive?" said Caitlyn Ottinger '06. "No, but every kid has one and they are expensive gas-hog cars."

"And even then how could you be stealthy?" added Retta Leaphart '06. "In Montana people drive their beat-up cars to the ski hill all the time, and their snow tires do fine."

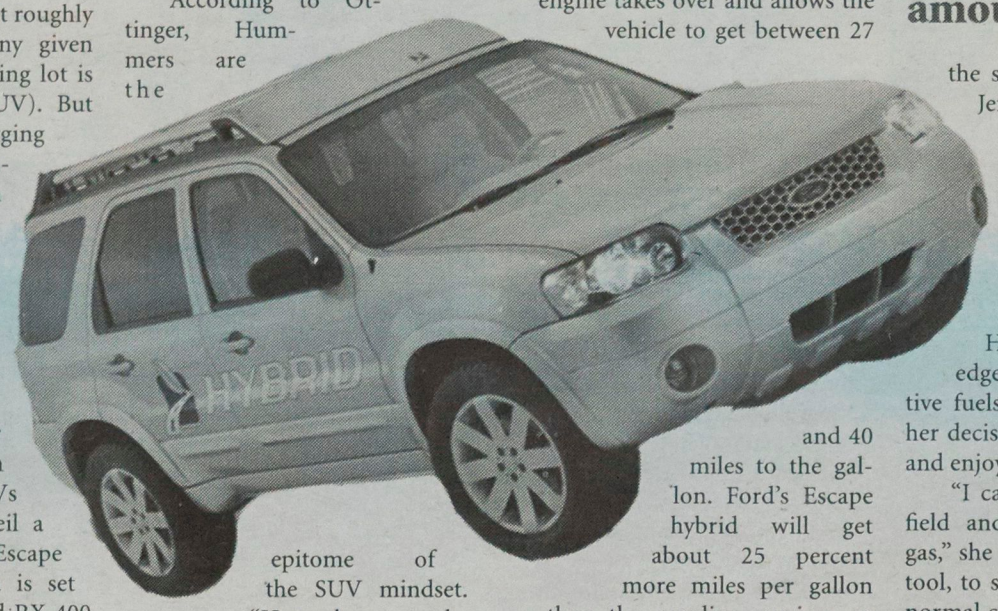
According to Ottinger, Hummers are the epitome of the SUV mindset. "Honestly, unless you're invading a foreign country, you don't need a Hummer," she said. Ottinger proudly trumpets her 1989 Mercury Sable that drives without a problem.

Many drive SUVs [simply] because of their role as a status symbol.

The new hybrid cars, or green machines, significantly reduce gas mileage and provide an alternative for drivers who are unwilling to part with an elevated view of the road. In 2002 an average car's gas mileage equaled about 24.4 miles per gallon whereas an SUV totaled about 17.3 miles per gallon.

With car-like mileage in an SUV, Ford and Toyota are coming out with the hybrid sport utility vehicle as an environmental answer to four-wheel-drive.

This technological advancement has a built- in electric engine in addition to the standard internal combustion engine. The hybrid SUVs will still run on gasoline and the batteries for the electric motor are recharged when the car is running. When the hybrid SUVs are traveling slowly or when they are idle at stop lights, the electric engine takes over and allows the vehicle to get between 27 and 40 miles to the gallon. Ford's Escape hybrid will get about 25 percent more miles per gallon than the gasoline version on the highway and average twice the miles per gallon in the city.



The new hybrid cars, or green machines, reduce gas mileage by a significant amount.

Although SUVs are spacious, comfortable and have four-wheel-drive, critics point to their role in exacerbating global warming. According to Dan Becker, a global warming specialist interviewed by *The New York Times*, automotive global warming emissions contribute greatly to the destruction of the ozone layer.

But SUVs do have their benefits. Many students at Middlebury are attached to their vehicles because they can carry around friends and gear.

"I like the fact that my car has storage, size for seating people and towing capability for my boat in the summer," said sophomore Jeff Boyink, who drives a 1996 Toyota 4Runner. "My forerunner is smaller than some SUVs. Big ones are unnecessary but if you have a large family they have practical applications." Caitlin Hicks '04 is on the cutting edge of transition to alternative fuels. She is fully invested in her decision to buy a Toyota Prius and enjoys the fuel efficiency.

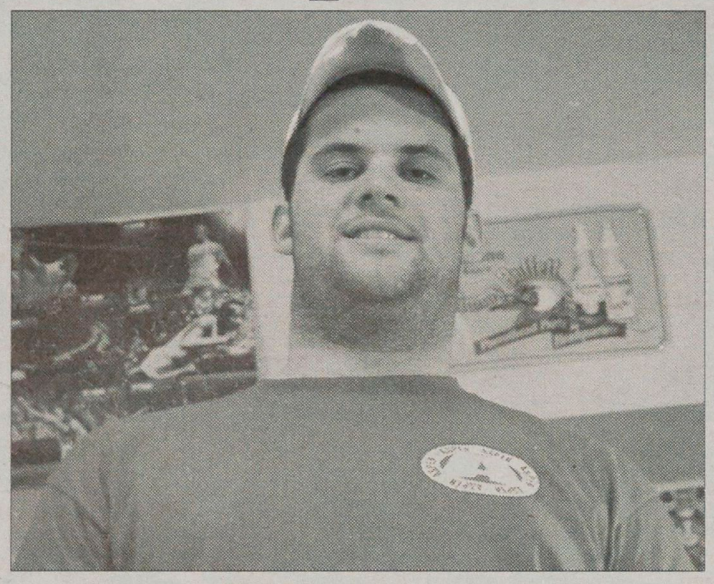
"I can drive home to Springfield and back on one tank of gas," she said. "It's an educational tool, to show people it runs like a normal car." Hicks gets close to 40 miles per gallon in her Prius in the winter.

Hakim's article reported only a lukewarm consumer response to Toyota's and Honda's hybrid sedans. Only tens of thousands of them have been sold out of a U.S. market that sells 17 million vehicles annually.

Both companies expect sales to rise — and for good reason — 60 percent of the vehicles sold by 2015 will have to be hybrid to stave off automotive global warming projections.

Hicks is not enthralled with the idea of hybrid SUVs. "The mentality that you need a big car in general is annoying," Hicks said. "But it's an improvement."

A peek at the parking lot



Chris Humphrey '06: Proud owner of a Ford F250, towers over gnat-sized Nissans and puny Pathfinders alike.

Chris Humphrey '06

What he drives: Ford F250 (truck) '03 V10

Miles per gallon: 8-10

Why a truck? My truck is a weekend thing. It's for utility uses like moving my things home for the summer.

The environmental impact: I am not for SUVs in general. It's nice but I'd never want an SUV as my everyday vehicle. They are big and hard to maneuver.

Tory Watts '06 attests to the power and prestige of her Pathfinder — hey, and it's got a big trunk to boot.

Tory Watts '06

What she drives: Nissan Pathfinder '03

Miles per gallon: 19

Why an SUV? It's safe. I've been in a wreck and I wasn't hurt because I was in an SUV. You can fit lots of people in it and it has a big trunk.

The environmental impact: I only drive when I need to. I never drive downtown, for example. I walk a lot.

King deems Bolivia a crowning cause

By Polly Johnson
Staff Writer

Talk to either Chris King '06 or Meredith Rey '04 for five minutes and you will understand the depth of their passion for the children of South America. Stepping into King's Ross room, one is plucked from the typical dorm room world of posters and tapestries and transported to one of photos featuring beautiful farmland settings, beaches at sunset and King surrounded by smiling children. These are not snapshots from a family trip to a beach resort, but rather glimpses into the life-altering experience King had living in Cochabamba, the largest city in Bolivia, with a population of roughly 500,000.

Bolivia, a country rich in history, art and tradition, remains the poorest country in South America and the third poorest in the world. Political instability and unrest is common — its president was recently removed, and the country remains $6.6 billion in debt. In 2000, the average income was around $1,000 per year, and 60 percent of the indigenous people live below the poverty line.

Deep familial connections ease the economic strain. Yet, children are abandoned at high rates. In Cochabamba alone, there are over 30 orphanages. During his stay in Bolivia, King dedicated his time to two different orphanages, spending most of his time at the Amistad Mission. The orphanage is comprised of about 80 kids, ranging in age from five to 19. According to King, the children are happy and appreciate what they have and like most normal kids, enjoy playing games and watching movies.

The orphanage strives to make the living situation as comfortable as possible, and has even created a teenage house as a point of transition into the real world of finding employment. King, although not fluent in Spanish, found that "so much is transmitted through a smile or a hug," and that maintaining a friendly and positive attitude was the best way to bond with the kids.

King, although not fluent in Spanish, found so much is transmitted with a smile or a hug.

King's first visit to South America was in 2001 on a trip to Ecuador where he developed a great interest in the country and wanted to help in any way possible. During his senior year of high school in 2002, he traveled with his youth group, big supporters of the Amistad orphanage, and spent 10 days in Cochabamba. He was so moved by what he experienced there that he went back last summer for two months.

King's ultimate goal is to spread awareness of this cause. He is planning to start a club and hold meetings on campus in hopes of expanding support for community service in South America. He hopes to eventually organize a trip for students to Bolivia where they can experience the needs first hand. In the meantime, both King and Rey, who also spent time volunteering in South America, suggest that the Middlebury community can help in a number of ways. They will be selling greeting cards outside of Ross Dining Hall for one dollar — cards that were hand painted by Bolivian children.

Bolivian ritual and culture broadens perspectives of student volunteers.

Courtesy

Volunteer Chris King '06 finds himself happily immersed in the lives of children residing in a Bolivian orphanage.

Rush in rewind: lots of free food

By Michael Ferrier
Staff Writer

The Middlebury social houses finished their most recent rush period last week, ushering in new pledge classes to their respective social communities. The rush period serves as a time when students can explore all the social houses on campus, sampling various activities in an attempt to discover the best fit for them.

Each house has its own strategy for recruiting potential bidders.

Open to every student on campus, social events planned during the two-week period included pasta dinners, barbecues, athletic events and question-and-answer sessions. In order to submit a bid to a particular house, the student had to attend a minimum of three social house events and compose a bid application to begin the pledge process.

As pledges learned, the rush period is a time when the social houses attempt to distinguish themselves from one another.

Although many students mention the immediate social gratification as the main motive for a prospective pledge candidate, several stress the broadening of social circles and networking as their primary reason for rushing. Heather Barrington '04, former president of ADP, highlighted the two types of people who participate in the pledge process, "Some people simply join with a large group of their friends in order to unearth a different social atmosphere, whereas others try to add to the periphery of their social circles to broaden their social interactions and networking."

Barrington adds that the social houses push "inter-brother" communication and casual activities during the rush period "in order to evoke a sort of low-key atmosphere in which we lie ourselves out on a line by being casual, but not putting on any sort of façades."

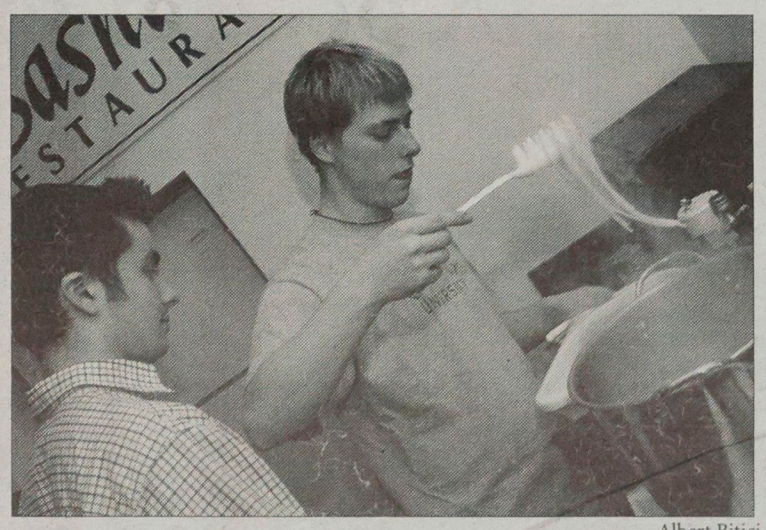
Tavern strives to create "a distinct comfort zone and area of acceptance for all of the rush and pledge classes."

Each house has its own strategy of recruiting potential bidders. For example, ADP has larger pledge classes, as exemplified by the 70-80 bids they typically receive each semester. Other houses like KDR have smaller pledge classes of 12 to 15 students.

Barrington notes that the difference in the number of bids for each particular house is a positive attribute to the Middlebury social house system, creating a "very dynamic and interesting" selection process for the potential bidder.

During the rush period, administrative guidance and financial support are essential to the overall success of the program. In particular, Karen Guttentag, the assistant dean of student affairs, plays a vital role in the direction of the social houses.

As Barrington emphasizes, "Karen walks the line between administrating and supporting very well. We wouldn't have been half as successful in the development of the rush period without her substantial influence."



Albert Bitici

Potential pledges sample Tavern's cooking and get a feel for the social scene during the two-week rush period.

POPROCKS

BY LANFORD BEARD

There are few phenomena that could inspire me to advise taking up residence in Cuba, but this past Friday I was knocked up, over and sideways by the return of our nation's preeminent película de bailar: "Dirty Dancing."

I know that most of my faithful readers expect me to report the tidings of this year's Oscars — this is the stuff that I live and breathe — but this week I decided to buck the trend and report on the latest gorgeosity that Harvey Weinstein and his Miramax mooks have bestowed upon us — aside from "Cold Mountain," "Shakespeare in Love" and scores of other movies that scream to Academy voters how important and intelligent they are. Forget intelligence, I want cuties and Cuba (pre-revolution)!

So, dear reader, as I sit here listening to the throbbing beats of the "Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights" soundtrack, I advise everyone in a reasonable radius to hightail it to the nearest theater (the Hoyt's South Burlington Nine sated my desperate yearnings) to see the hottest faux-Latino movie to hit the States since the ilk of "The Forbidden Dance" and "Lambada."

"Havana Nights" takes place on the eve of Castro's New Year's 1959 revolution in Cuba. Indie darlings Romola Garai (first featured in "I Capture the Castle") and Diego Luna (from sextastic "Y Tu Mama Tambien") are the new Baby and Johnny, respectively. This time their names are Katey and Javier, and through a series of twists and travails they are compelled to enter a dance contest at the Palace dance club so Javier can earn $5,000 for his family and Katey can give away her Radcliff-bound flower (it is no coincidence the club where she finds her inner pulse is called "La Rosa Negra" — the black flower).

True, the premise, the music and the dialogue are often bogus. Don't expect gravity when you're drooling over Diego. Don't expect genius when you're reeling at Romola's undulations. Instead, ask for hott-ness and hott-ness ye shall receive.

And even some Swayze for good measure. Yes, folks, Romola again captures the Castle — Johnny Castle — when Katey frees herself of her American inhibitions under the tutelage of a visibly older Johnny, who, in movie time, has yet to turn our Baby into a woman.

I refuse to lie and say the film is great art. First and foremost the film is eye candy. Says Roger Ebert, "We go to the movies to look at the pretty pictures on the screen, like infants who like bright toys dangled before them. And 'Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights' is a great movie to look at…" and its stars aren't anything to sniff at, either.

So, this week while America is celebrating the futures of Academy winners and losers, celebrate the past in its most adulterated form by surrendering to the tropical heat wave of "Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights."

ACADEMIC PAUSE SHOWCASES WINTRY MIX OF ARTISTIC AND ATHLETIC TALENTS

By Amanda Goodwin
Staff Writer

Last weekend Middlebury students lined the ski slopes, packed into the hockey arena and flooded the dance floor, taking part in the College's much-anticipated annual Winter Carnival. The celebration kicked off Thursday night with a fireworks display at the Center for the Arts followed by the "Moonlight in Manhattan" cultural gala, featuring a collection of jazz, Broadway show tunes and dance performances.

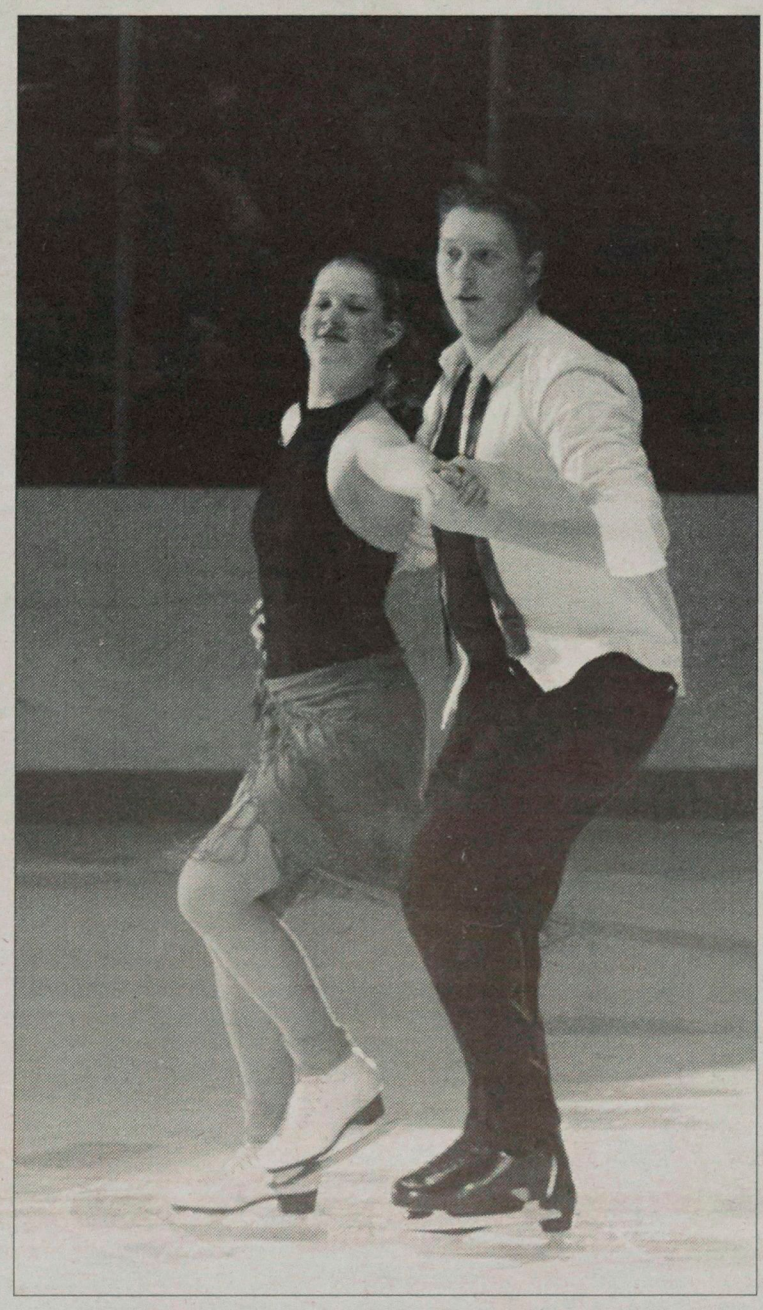
An '80s-themed dance party capped off the evening, during which students sported side ponytails, legwarmers and spandex leggings as they danced the night away to the music of Orange Crush, an '80s cover band. The band performed a collection of classic hits from the decade, including "Video Killed the Radio Star," "Tainted Love" and the perennial crowd favorite, "Jessie's Girl."

"I thought the '80s dance was the best event of the weekend," said Joseph Bergan '07.5. "The costumes were fantastic, and for me, it was a great introduction to Winter Carnival."

Friday carved a more competitive and athletic turn at the start, boasting the first and second runs of the alpine skiing races and women's 5K and men's 10K nordic events. A wide selection of activities ensued, including the annual ice show, a Wonnacott Commons-sponsored afternoon of fondue and games and two separate viewings of the Camp Micowica talent show. Camp Micowica, an evening of performances, which showcased the tap-dance ensemble On Tap, juggling phenomenon Brian Pletcher '04 and the 2004 talent show winners, beat-boxers Tony and MoJo, left the audience both in awe of the acts and nostalgic for summer camp — "mud and worms" pudding cups and juice boxes were served on red-checked tablecloths to evoke the spirit of that coveted season. After the show, many students took the opportunity to partake in a Hoedown dance and midnight breakfast, which was accompanied by a pie-eating contest and spontaneous outbursts of song.

This momentum carried into Saturday for the second round of ski races, in which the Middlebury squads reigned supreme, earning first place overall before a mass of supportive fans. Celebrations ensued at several Panther-dominated athletic contests, notably the women's lacrosse, women's ice hockey and men's ice hockey games. Following the sporting events, athletes and spectators alike changed gears and costume for the illustrious Magnolia Ball. Sporting suits and formal dresses, students from every class moved to the beats of the Marsels, which played a diverse repertoire ranging from Motown to classic rock.

"I think people had a lot fun over Winter Carnival," said Vinson Cunningham II '06. "Taking Friday off certainly allowed us to squeeze in more events, and take some time to relax and spend time with friends. It is a great tradition, and one worth keeping."



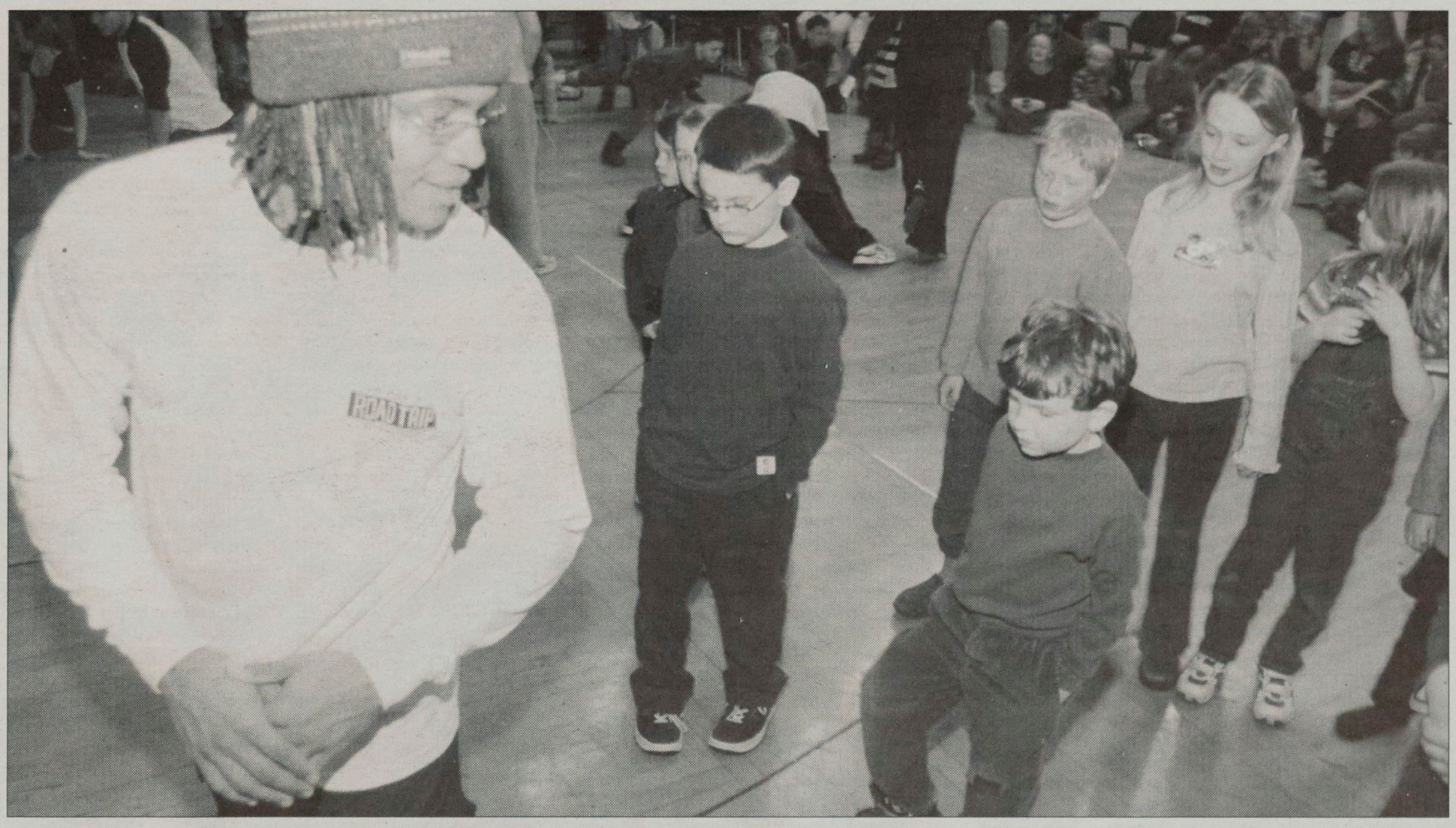
Jason Vrooman '03 and Lindsey Wolff '04 skate to the tune of "Cariño," (right). Vrooman said he and Wolff practiced five hours a week for three weeks leading up to the ice show.

Striking a Scott Hamilton-like pose, Jonathan Hayward of the Champlain Valley Figure Skating Club wows a packed Kenyon Arena during the "Middle of the Road" ice show (left).

PHOTOS BY VLAD LODOABA AND ALBERT BITICI

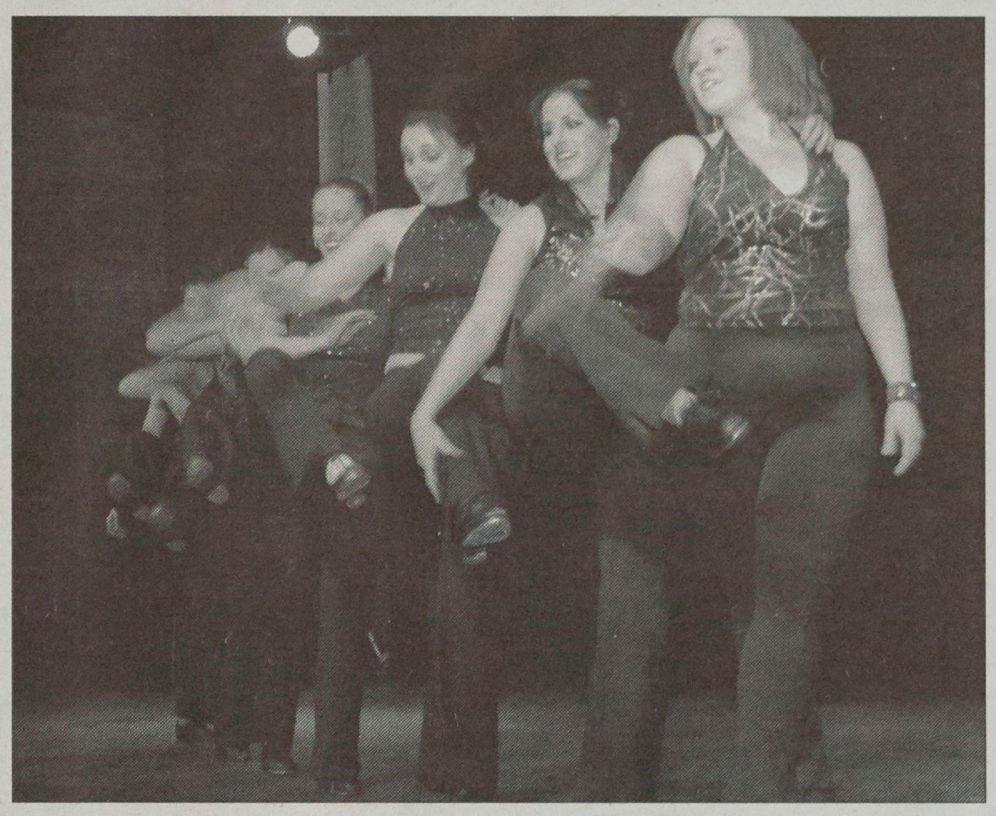
Vermont Jazz Ensemble swings with a swanky beat on Thursday night in the CFA during Carnival's annual Cultural Gala. The entire Gala was organized by first-years Virginia Harper and Meredith Conrad.

Renowned vocalist and musician Francois Clemmons belts out showtunes on Thursday night during the Winter Carnival Cultural Gala.



Morgan Jones '04 (MoJo) puts a new spin on educating Middlebury's next generation — breakdancing. The class and performance were held on Thursday in the CFA during opening night.

Promising first-year guitarist Jenny Schneider plays an original piece at the talent show. Could this be Middlebury's next Anais Mitchell?



Middlebury's On Tap rattles the stage as the troupe rounds out its second performance of the talent show.

The Middlebury community's finest fledgling skaters perform to "Moving Right Along" in Saturday's ice show at Kenyon Arena.

Michael Kirkland '04 , the emcee of the talent show, flashes his fine '80s outfit. Kirkland elicited many laughs for calling President McCardell "Johnny Mac."

BY VENESSA WONG

One rarely pauses to ask oneself, "How would I describe the world?" Stopping by Mead Chapel one afternoon, I gazed on the surrounding scene. The white speckled mountaintops anchored under a flawless blue sky appeared in all their magnificance. In town an elderly couple strolling down the block, hand-in-wrinkled-hand caught my eye. I noted the way the warm afternoon sun casts a long shadow on the sparkling snow-coated street. There are precious moments in the day to day experiences of each person in which the mundane world is unexpectedly transformed into something fantastic. For a few, these moments become the catalysts of artistic expression — representative creations that provide a window into the mind of the artist possessed by the things he or she observes.

However, in today's objectivity-obsessed society, art is eclipsed by scientific industries that seek to rationalize and explain the world rather than to depict it. Art, offering no explanations and lacking practical application, seems "useless." It does not reveal the truth, but a distorted version of it. However, as Michael Oakeshott argues in "The Voice of Poetry in the Conversation in Mankind," art cannot be read in search of anything other than artistic truths. "[A] poetic image never 'lies' because it does not affirm anything." It is, rather, the voice of imagination.

According to Oakeshott, "Some people find poetic images unintelligible unless they can be shown in some sense 'true' or representations of 'truth'." But the difficulties that face such a requirement "are circumvented by means of a concept of 'poetic truth', a special kind of 'truth' usually believed to be more profound than other manifestations of 'truth'." For him, the purpose of art is to provide an escape from all other practical activity.

Paul Nelson, professor of Political Science and the Director of the Performing Arts Series, says, "Human beings need art. We need it to adorn our existence and to be an escape or alternative to other sorts of practical activity. To experience the world artistically is to create images of it and to live amidst those images and to delight in those image." Nelson continues, "Experiencing art is of a very different kind and every human being needs that kind of experience occasionally."

Daniel Houghton '04, a former American Literature major, now turned Art major, believes thinking artistically is to "Take a problem in any discipline and solve it well. Then return, and resolve it better than before…[Thinking artistically] begins in your hands beautifully and rises to something greater."

Art always exists all around us. As Nelson says, "Many [students] have the opportunity to experience works of art in a way different from studying and creating them…there are performances and works of art all over the campus."

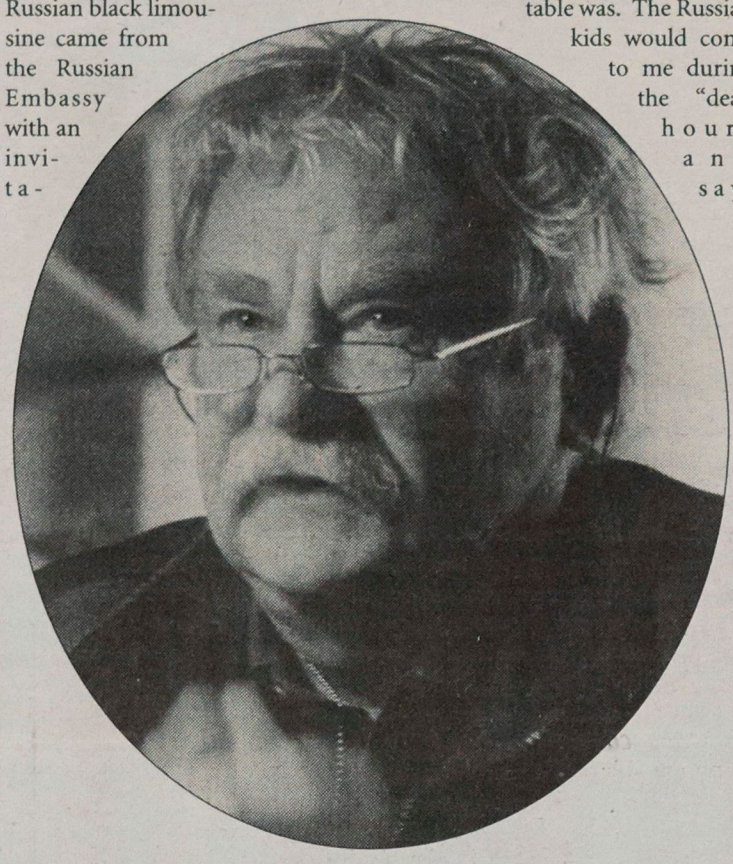
From Russia with love

By Aglaya Glebova
Assistant Features Editor

The Campus: Could you tell me a little bit about your childhood? Rumors abound — people say you've met Stalin.

Davydov: Stalin?! I was born in Prague. My parents lived in Russia as children, before the Revolution. I was born just after Russians entered the city. The Russians arrested all Russian émigrés — executed my grandfather and arrested my father. Then, a month later, I was born. My mother and I were sent to a remote region of Czechoslovakia, the Czech GULAG. In 1957 Nikita Khrushchev and Bulganin, his Prime Minister came to our town. They were on a tour. Our town needed a pioneer girl and a pioneer boy to give a bouquet of flowers to Khrushchev and Bulganin and give them a speech in Russian. I wasn't even a pioneer, not because I didn't want to be, but because they wouldn't let me — my father was arrested, my grandfather was a White Army officer. But because no one could speak Russian in Slovakia, they asked me. I agreed. They quickly made me a pioneer — issued me the party ticket, dressed me in white, tied a red scarf around my neck. So, they sent us to the tribune and I went to Khrushchev, reciting the speech. He interrupted me and asked why I speak Russian so well. I told him, "I am Russian. He asked, "Where is your father." I said, "You arrested my father in 1945 and I have not seen him." To which Khrushchev said, "I did not do it, but if your father is still alive, I promise you will see him." I had something on me that I was very, very proud of. Just week ago a friend of our neighbors from Sweden gave me plastic sunglasses — you could stretch them, twist them — totally indestructible. As Khrushchev's train was parting, I handed him my glasses through the window.

About a week later, I opened an illustrated magazine, and on the fold page, there was a big photograph of Khrushchev on tour in Berlin, and he was wearing my sunglasses. Shortly afterwards a Russian black limousine came from the Russian Embassy with an invitation for me to go to Moscow and hopefully see my father.



The Campus: Did you meet your father in Moscow?

Davydov: Not in Moscow. Eventually, I was sent to Crimea, to an exquisite pioneer camp, Artek. I was placed in an international camp with children of European communist leaders. At the pioneer camp, after lunch there is "the dead hour" – everyone has to lie down and sleep. And the girls were sleeping on the beach and the beach was under the room where the ping pong table was. The Russian kids would come to me during the "dead hour" and say, "Sergei, come out, we're going to play ping pong." It was the custom, I don't know why, but everyone in Artek was swimming, tanning and sunbathing in the nude. It was kind of communist nudism. So we spent our afternoons studying the anatomy of the daughters of European party bosses.

And again, nothing happened to us, because the administration of the camp new that I was personal guest of Khrushchev. One day a man, whom I vaguely recognized as my father because of his picture that was hanging over my bed all these years, showed up at camp. What arrived was only a distant resemblance of what I imagined my father to be, but it was him.

The Campus: So how did you end up at Middlebury?

Davydov: After my first interview with the College, I was invited to campus for another interview. And I didn't know that the college would pay for the hotel, so I took my girlfriend and her tent, and we pitched the tent not far from the college so that I wouldn't miss the morning appointment with the Provost. I did get the job. I taught here for two years. Then I taught at Yale, went on to earn my tenure at Bryn Mawr, taught at Princeton and Berkeley. Then it turned out there was a slot at Middlebury, and so I returned to where I started. That spot where we pitched our tent is now on our lot.

The Campus: And then you built your banya?

Davydov: Oh yeah, I am a Russian. I cannot help it.

WINNERS & LOSERS

WINNER: HAVANA NIGHTS	LOSER: MIDDLEBURY NIGHTS
HOT, STEAMY AND FILLED WITH LUSTY PASSION, FEATURING MIKE BOOREM AND ROMOLA GARAI.	COLD, DRY AND FILLED WITH DUSTY CLASSICS, FEATURING JAMES MADISION AND JEAN-PAUL SARTRE.
WINNER: RETURN OF THE KING	**LOSER: RETURN OF THE FLING**
WINNING A RECORD-TYING 11 OSCARS, THIS FILM SWEPT EVERY CATEGORY IN WHICH IT WAS NOMINATED.	REMEMBER THAT CHICK/DUDE YOU BROUGHT HOME AFTER THE BALL? NO? WELL, NOT UNTIL YOU SAW THEM IN ROSS ON SUNDAY MORNING
WINNER: JOHN MCCARDELL	**LOSER: JUDGE JUDY**
ELOQUENT, FAIR AND HONEY-TONGUED, PRESIDENT MCCARDELL FOUND HIS CALLING FRIDAY NIGHT, JUDGING THE TALENT SHOW.	THIS IRREVERENT LOOSE CANNON'S GOT NOTHING ON THE ARTICULATE TONGUE OF MIDDLEBURY'S OWN.

SHE'S NOT THERE

Albert Bitici

Jennifer Finney Boylan, professor of creative writing and chair of the English department at Colby College, takes a moment to ponder a question from Vicky Baptiste '04 at a reception in Redfield Proctor Room. Boylan, a male-to-female transsexual, gave a reading of her memoir "She's Not There" followed by an informal question-and-answer session to a jam-packed crowd at McCullough Tuesday evening. Boylan kept the audience in stitches with a frank yet open style of reading and talking, interrupting her readings to go on tangents about guinea pig noises and transsexual Republicans. The talk, sponsored by the Department of Psychology and co-sponsored by numerous other on-campus groups, was a unique opportunity for the Middlebury community to get a peek at the oft-overlooked transgender community.

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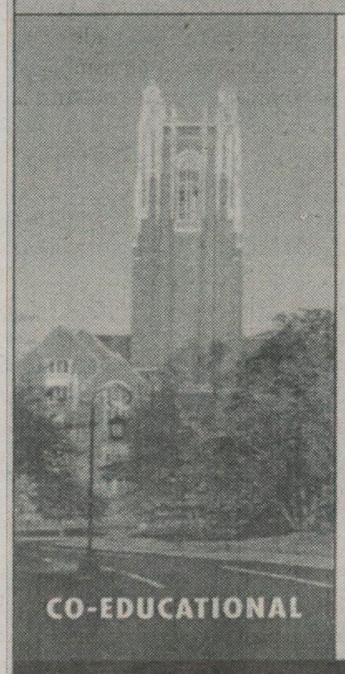

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THE LINE BETWEEN PORN AND LEGAL LITERATURE

Indian folk tales spring to life

By Joyce Man
Staff Writer

Having my parents read me to sleep was one of those commercialized childhood experiences that I always saw on television but never got to have myself. Happily, this injustice was rectified last Friday as I listened to Kirin Narayan's rendering of old Indian folk tales as part of the Art Museum's "Every Picture Tells a Story" program.

From her wide-eyed facial expressions and eloquent hand gestures, it was immediately obvious that this first public storytelling session would not be her last — if her audience had anything to do with it.

A child of the oral tradition, Narayan was fed a regular diet of folk tales since early youth.

What took more time to become apparent, however, was the way Narayan's life paralleled those of her ancient Indian story characters. Just like the sadu holy man, the king's storyteller and Chunko the cat, Narayan's life keeps building on itself and creating circles.

A child of the oral tradition, Narayan was fed a regular diet of folk tales since early youth. "Listening to stories was a way of relaxing when I was young," said Narayan. She, in turn, proceeded with the oral tradition, but in a more academic way, through documentation and research. Eventually in 1987, she landed in Middlebury College as assistant professor of anthropology. Today, she has come another full circle, returning to the Center for the Arts to tell us her stories.

Surrounded by colorful picturebook paintings by Chicano, African-American and Indian artists, and young children eager for a good folktale, Narayan narrated first the story of an Indian sadu, or holy man, who goes into the woods to meditate but encounters a grave problem. "You see," Narayan said as the audience leaned forward in anticipation, "in the woods there was a mouse who kept nibbling at his loincloth, and how can anyone meditate when a mouse is biting at their loincloth?"

Amid laughter and eager attentiveness, Narayan led us along as a cat is brought in to deal with the mouse, then a cow is brought in to provide milk for the cat, then a servant to milk the cow, and so on until a whole community develops around the sadu who, in exasperation, gives up on yoga and meditation and gets married.

As with all folk-tales, particularly Indian ones, the sadu's story is not just that. It is also steeped in proverbial wisdom, explained Narayan. "The saying goes 'from a loincloth an entire world can come into being.' If you focus on one obsession, you come up with an endless string of problems." The tale's meaning was universally applicable and obviously struck a chord even with our audience in the Art Museum, a world away from the story's Indian origins.

Courtesy

Kiri Narayan narrated traditional Indian tales to a rapt audience.

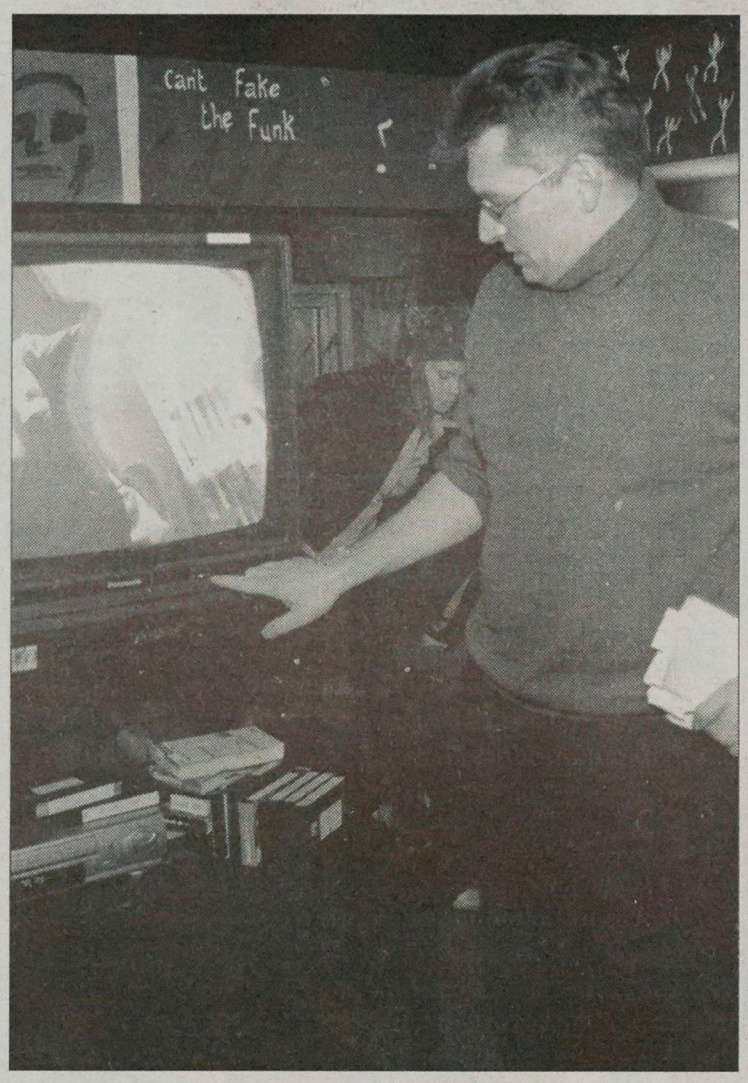
On a cultural note, however, this folk tale is more geographically confined and conveys an immediately recognizable identity through imagery characteristic of the region — there is the prerequisite farmland cow, a yogi sadu stripped bare of all earthly possessions and a village of people to offer counsel and help.

The story plays out inside a hot wood beside a small agricultural community. Beyond all the morals and wisdom, the purpose of these stories is to convey facets of the Indian character from mouth to mouth. Narayan stresses that folktales are inextricably linked to Indian culture. "You will find that much of India is marked with stories like these," she said.

Back in the museum, three young children stretched out on the carpet and grew quiet in rapt attention. Narayan began her next story about a cat that is married off to a young man.

Narayan shaped the smooth silken fur of the purring, playful Chunko and surprised even her adult audience when she revealed the magical transformation of this small feline character into a beautiful enchantress. What becomes apparent is that at the most basic level these stories teach us to relax, to sit back, listen and be entranced in a good plot line.

IT'S ALL ABOUT SOUL

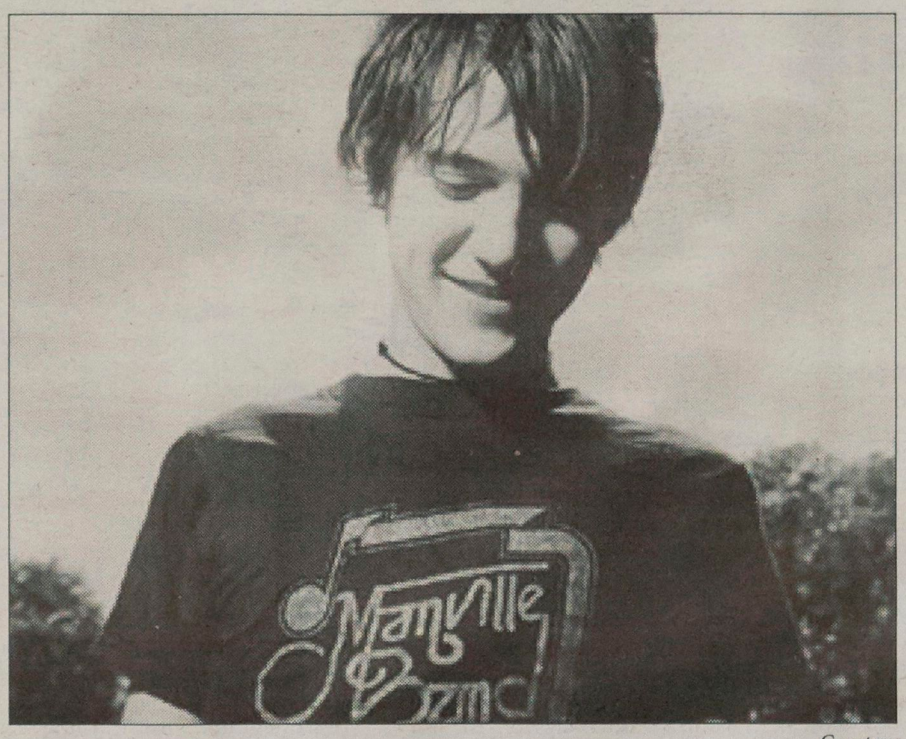


Vlad Lodoaba

In the spirit of Black History Month, AAA hosted an evening of jazz and dinner on Friday, Feb. 27. Crystal Belle '04, a coordinator, explained, "AAA decided to do this event during black history month to give people an overall understanding of the significance of black music, particularly jazz, in the United States." She was "very pleased with the event, as many people from the community, administration and student body came out to support the event." According to Belle, the "highlight of the night was the wonderful jazz lecture given by professor John Gennari from UVM [*bottom left*]. With his video images and inherent passion for black music, he delivered an engaging and interesting lecture."

Misery loves company

Conor Oberst performs at Higher Ground



Courtesy

Conor Oberst played with Jim James and M. Ward at Higher Ground last Friday.

By Mike Deni
Staff Writer

Conor Oberst's hair is jet black. His eyes are big. When he opens them, you pray he doesn't look at you. They roll into the back of his head when he shudders with the words that erupt from his body. He's slight of figure and reminds you of someone from your high school who you can't quite place.

As they performed together last Friday night at Higher Ground in Winooski, Oberst shared cigarettes and alcohol with his guitarist and pushed his head affectionately into the chests of fellow musicians Jim James and M. Ward. When the band plays, he bends at the waist, his hair hangs down. Sometimes he shakes it like a wet dog, as though he were trying to shake the feeling out.

You're left grimacing, staring harder at this little boy who writes songs like Bob Dylan never could, because Bob Dylan probably never felt this much pain.

Once he spits violently onto the stage, as though it were that simple, as though that's what he's really doing with his music — taking a feeling and spitting it out.

You can't stop staring at him as he sings songs of self-hatred and self-criticism that hit you like a chord played too loud. You're left grimacing, staring harder at this little boy who writes songs like Bob Dylan never could, because Bob Dylan probably never felt this much pain.

It's not just the words. If I were to say to you, "Everything I've ever done is trite and cheap, including this," you'd probably feel sorry for me. But you don't feel sorry for Conor Oberst. You can't feel anything but the truth of what he's saying.

You can't feel anything but the complication of that feeling — the weight of it — as you try to understand if he's right or not. But the songs he has created are so clear and vivid that somehow you know what he's saying is true.

What makes his music so visceral and powerful is his voice, the way he re-lives every statement. You can feel the tension, the struggle infused in his lyrics and chords. Without the voice, this could be any other band.

But it is the tragedy and desperation he spits out — his yell, more of a strain, a loud, desperate, crazed wheeze — that set the Omaha-based Bright Eyes apart.

Without the band to balance all this pain and torture, however, it is a little hard to handle. If you see Oberst solo, make sure you know what you're signing up for — someone taking a knife out of his own chest and stabbing it into yours.

Without his fellow Bright Eyes bandmates there to balance his misery — he releases it like an airborne disease that risks contaminating your bloodstream — you'll be left standing stunned and devastated when the crowd clears.

We love to hear Oberst's misery. We love to feel it, because he's made it into something beautiful, something we can love.

When Bright Eyes, after one of Oberst's deadening lines, kicks in with a somber, almost playful melody — with that backdrop of sadness and an overtone of revelry in the face of untold hardships — it's as if they are saying, "'We're gonna laugh, we're gonna drink, until the morning comes,' despite all those terrible things our lead singer just told you about."

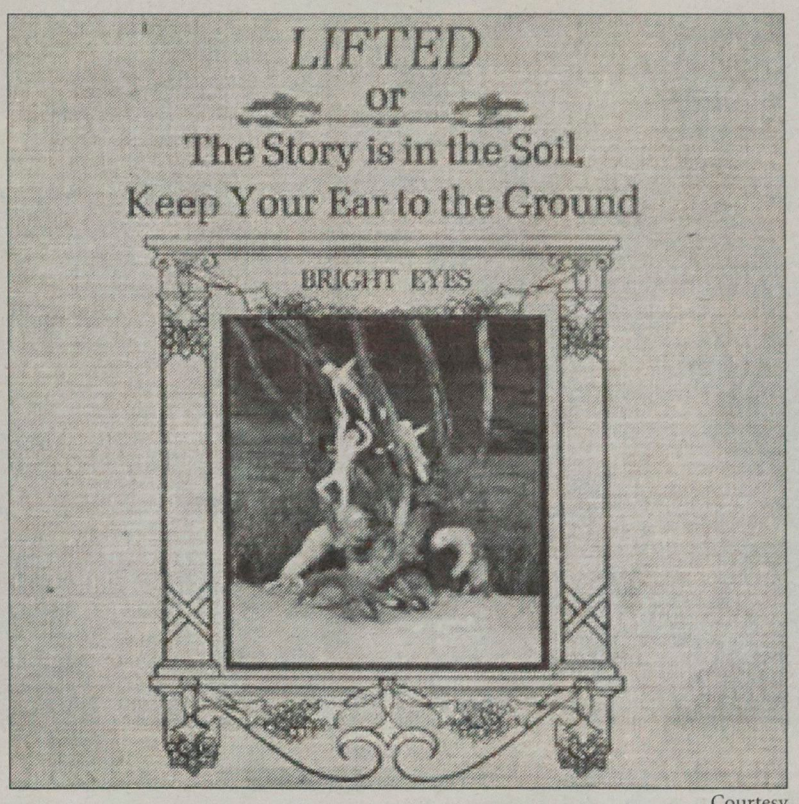
If they can do it, maybe we can do the same with our own sadness. Or at the very least, just ride on his Oberst's wave.

When you listen to Bright Eyes you feel like you have just been inducted into the Tragic-Helpless-Sad-People-Who-for-Some-Reason-Can't-Live-Life-like-Everyone-Else-but-It's-Okay-because-There's-Bright-Eyes Club. Misery is alright.

But faced with nothing but the man himself, decked out in every thread of his misery, it is a little hard to retain a sense of emotional well being. Many people left the concert disconcerted, downright upset and depressed themselves.

It was as if he had just sacrificed himself on stage — he just keeps performing the rites night after night, inflicting pain again on some distanced self. It is self-sacrifice, but by default, we are implicated in the experience, too. It is hard to watch, but it appears to help him. It's medicine he seems to prefer to the pills he takes to counter-act his depression.

My advice is this: if you can see the whole band, you're in for a treat. If all you can get is Conor Oberst, take what you can, but be prepared. His words, his voice, the notes he chooses and the way he chooses to sing are not for the faint of heart.

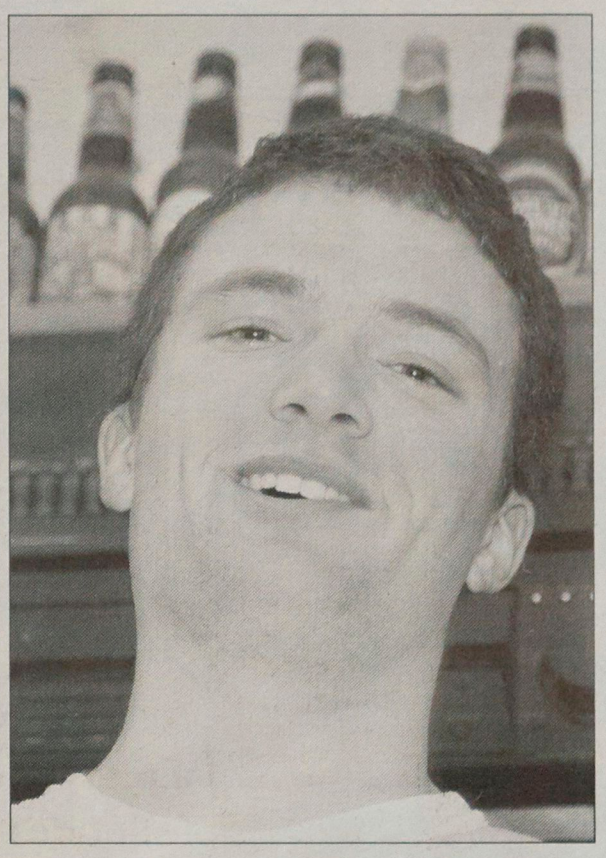


Courtesy

"Lifted..." is Bright Eyes' most recent full-length album.

OFFAIR

WITH CHRIS EBERLY



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WHAT THREE ALBUMS/ARTISTS ARE IN YOUR CD PLAYER RIGHT NOW? Xiu Xiu's "Fabulous Muscles," Great Lake Swimmers' self-titled album and Moby's "Animal Rights."

WHAT BOOK IS ON YOUR BESIDE TABLE RIGHT NOW? "The Stories of Vladimir Nabokov." I tell people I'm reading it for pleasure, not for class.

BEST ALBUM OF ALL TIME? My number one desert island album is Meatloaf's "Bat Out of Hell."

IF YOU COULD RESURRECT ANY FAMOUS DEAD PERSON AND HAVE LUNCH WITH HIM/HER, WHO WOULD IT BE? It depends where we're having lunch.

GREATEST MUSICAL TRIUMPH EVER? When David Bowie met Iggy Pop.

GREATEST MUSICAL TRAVESTY EVER? "Sweet Home Alabama"

VINYL, CASSETTE, CD, OR MP3? Nothing gives me greater pleasure than the rich, warm sound of Winamp.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE? The power of normal human vision.

CAFFEINATED SUBSTANCE OF CHOICE? Eye-Opener Blend

PROCTOR, ROSS OR FREEMAN? Proctor.

FAVORITE VIRTUE? A nice smile.

FAVORITE VICE? It rhymes with tequila.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST KNOWN FOR? My ability to dunk from the free-throw line.

WHAT QUOTE DO YOU LIVE BY? Quotes are for the weak-willed, to paraphrase Nietzche.

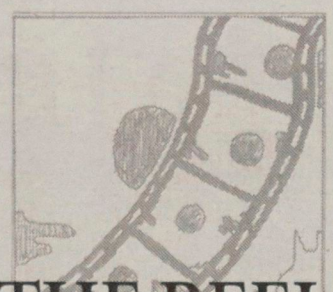
DO YOU SUFFER FROM ANY PHOBIAS? There isn't enough room in the entire paper.

MOST TREASURED POSSESSION? My dignity.

WHICH WORD OR PHRASE DO YOU MOST OVER-USE? On the air I say "so...yeah" every five to 10 seconds.

IN 10 YEARS, YOU WILL BE? [At] the top of the Latin American Music charts.

— ERIKA MERCER, ARTS EDITOR



THE REEL CRITIC

BY AARON STRUMWASSER

Mad Mel returns with passion

I confess, I have not seen Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ." Nor do I plan to. Does it portray Jews unfairly? The probable answer is a good reason to avoid watching the movie. But I have a purely cinematic excuse — Mel Gibson, who for more than 30 years has exhibited less range than a pair of walkie-talkies held by conjoined twins.

When an actor participates in a bad movie, unless conspicuously over-financed or over-released or both, it disappears almost instantly from the public eye. But if that movie escapes theaters with a profit, the actor at stake lives another day on the casting couch. Apparently Mel Gibson has starred in enough disturbingly lucrative movies that he bought his own casting couch. He sits in it, too.

In 1995, Gibson directed and starred in "Braveheart," which gave us three hours of him yelling, fighting and taking savage liberties with history. Nobody knows exactly what caused the mythical Scots warrior William Wallace to rebel against the English, so Gibson reincarnated Wallace as Mad Max. In fact, almost every Gibson film is "Mad Max Redux." The recurring storyline is that some bad guys violate the good guy's family and then the good guy gets revenge. And while there are only three movies with the words Mad Max in their title, we should indict "Lethal Weapon," its three sequels, "Ransom," "Payback," "The Patriot" and his Max-ed-out portrayal of "Hamlet" for formulaic indecency.

"Bird on a Wire," however, reverses the Mad Max formula. This time the bad guys (the mobsters) seek revenge against the good guy (an FBI informant played by Gibson). Unfortunately the bad guys fail, and "Bird on the Wire" fell to earth without making so much as a dent on the box-office. Five years later Gibson reclaimed his dubious throne with "Braveheart."

Then Gibson crossed over into the I-Wonder-if-I'm-Crazy genre. In "What Women Want," Gibson thinks he can hear women think. In "Signs," Gibson thinks he can see aliens. In "Conspiracy Theory," Gibson thinks he can — well, you can guess from the title. Of course, at some point during these movies we learn that Gibson's characters are either supernaturally perceptive or correct in their suspicion that aliens exist.

The real-life Gibson, too, believes he is supernaturally perceptive. Regarding "The Passion of the Christ," Mel Gibson told Diane Sawyer, "I believe that he [the holy ghost] is looking favorably on this film." Gibson also said he wants his film to be "shocking." I am shocked indeed — shocked that he has yet to announce his intention to make a sequel about the Second Coming in which the spirit of Mad Max possesses Jesus. The original Mad Max, however, will remain Gibson's best, because if you watch it on videocassette Gibson's voice is dubbed over. But Gibson wants the last word — later this year audiences will have the chance to see "Mad Max 4: Fury Road."

Shalom-Pax: a chants encounter

Albert Bitici

In a Sunday afternoon performance, Rabbi Robert Freedman presented a concert of Jewish cantorial music and Gregorian chant.

By Rebecca Browngoehl
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Feb. 29, Jewish cantorial music and Gregorian chant assuaged an intimate audience in Mead Chapel. The spiritual and hypnotizing scores of "Shalom-Pax" were enchanting. The performance was organized by Robert Freedman, rabbi of Israel Congregation, Manchester, Vt., and William Tortolano, professor emeritus of music and fine arts at St. Michael's College in Winooski.

The community experienced Freedman's chants of biblical texts and directional hymns, as well as performance of vespers and a requiem mass by the Vermont Gregorian Chant Schola. The chapel was filled with a surprising number of couples, mostly in their 40s and 50s, many of whom had their eyes closed and a relaxed countenance.

Throughout the performance, there was an aura of peace and satisfaction inside the chapel — a lack of frenzy and activity that is rarely at Middlebury. Twelve men in renaissance choir white robes serenaded the audience for over an hour. Their presence evoked images of medieval Roman monks placed in Jewish synagogues.

Drawing from his musical background, the lead singer Freedman sang with a beautiful, rich voice which reverberated across the chapel and sent chills up his listeners' spines. As a scholar of music and vocal performance, he has performed in operas, solo recitals and professional choral groups. He chants in Hebrew but in English explains to the audience the significance of his words, which derive from the Book of Genesis, Lamentations and several Psalms.

The tranquility on the faces of those sitting in the audience was reminiscent of the lazy weekends of one's childhood. But at the same time, it was a cathartic and religious experience.

Nothing can describe the feeling inside a chapel when 12 men stand up together and begin chanting a liturgy centuries old.

After the Jewish portion, the Gregorian chants commenced. The men were poised, perfect and unfeeling. Unlike the rabbi their faces revealed nothing besides the deep vibrations of their music. They looked so content in their repose — respectful yet with a certain curve at the edge of their lips and scrunching at the corners of their eyes that suggests they are all in their own worlds, lost in the hypnotizing sensations of the prayer.

It was not until the end of the show that its intensity became apparent. "Shalom-Pax" left its audience in a peaceful state of mind. It was truly a religious experience.

FEELIN' GROOVY

Vlad Lodoaba

Green Gold Groove, a local high school band, play at Proctor. Their rendition of Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall" struck a chord with some college students in the audience.

Liking dances to her own beat

By Claire M. L. Bourne
Managing Editor

With flashes of color and clap-along rhythms, Cameroonian writer and performing artist Werewere Liking took to McCullough stage Monday night. Joined by Nsèrèl Njock and Les Étoiles du Ki-Yi, the multi-talented performer drew audience members — local children, professors, students — out of their shells and onto the dance floor with a series of original songs that fused traditional and contemporary music.

The performance, entitled "The Queen Mothers of Ki-Yi: Immortal Values," explored the importance of work, friendship, compassion, love and spirituality through song and movement. Liking and Njock burst onto the stage clad in technicolor costumes. They sang, danced, talked, laughed and played musical instruments, their high energy level never waning. Despite a significant language barrier — they communicated with the audience in French and through the translating services of Associate Professor of French Armelle Crouzières — the dynamic quintet kept the audience engaged for almost two hours. The group is a unit of the Ki-Yi Mbok Artists' Village in the Ivory Coast that, through this performance, fuses deep-seated African traditions and the fresh vision of pan-African women. The five-part piece stressed "the everlasting human values in all of us that no evil can ever totally overshadow," the program explained.

Sponsored by myriad campus offices and student organizations, the event was the culmination of two-year's worth of coordination efforts, spearheaded by Crouzières, who met Liking for the first time at a francophone literature conference a couple of years ago. This was Liking's first visit to Vermont. She was so struck by the wintry countryside that she penned a song called "Kiss Me like the Snow Kisses Vermont." Her Middlebury audience was treated to the first public rendition of the song.

Albert Bitici

Werewere Liking and Nsèrèl Njock appeal to the audience during Monday night's performance.

is it art?

A LOOK AT THOSE WHO DARE TO STRETCH THE CREATIVE LIMITS

Outside rendezvous in Italy. Gang bangs in French Parks. High-class orgies in Parisian swingers' clubs. Sounds like a European porn video? These are actually a few of the episodes from "The Sexual Life of Catherine M.," written by Catharine Millet and translated into English by Adriana Hunter.

No, it's not a dirty novel. First published in 2002, this graphic memoir recounts 30 years of the author's sexual escapades. It is a bit overt, but that's the point. This book occupies the genre between the cheesy, Danielle Steele romance novels and the explicit, orgy-obsessed *Penthouse* Letters.

At first glance I thought, "Oh God, where's contemporary literature going?" Then I decided I'd give it a read. After all, it's a world-wide best-seller and she's a well-respected French art critic.

The title could not be more direct. The novel is simply and solely about Catherine M.'s sex life. She tells us with complete honesty how it was for her. She does not bore us with a clichéd tale of self-discovery or persuade us to behave in a certain way. Nor is she interested in arousing sexual desire in her readers — although you'll definitely get excited or at least curious while reading a couple of the encounters. Millet wrote 200-plus pages about sex!

Millet approaches the novel as she would a critique of a piece of modern art. She writes about space, confined areas and details. She diverges from the typical chronological order of a biography. The language is a bit shocking because of her outrageous bluntness in describing sex. Her writing style is visual and creative.

In the course of the book, we learn that Millet lost her virginity at 18 and from then on participated in innumerable sexual encounters with seemingly hundreds if not thousands of men whose names she never knew. She did it in clubs, supermarkets, on the sides of highways, in art galleries and even in churches!

Millet was particularly turned on by orgies and seems to have spent a great part of her life on her back with her legs wide open, while a line of men formed around her — "I was sometimes set upon so violently that I had to hold on to the ends of the table with both my hands and for a long time I bore the scar of a little gash above my coccyx, where my spine had rubbed against the rough wood."

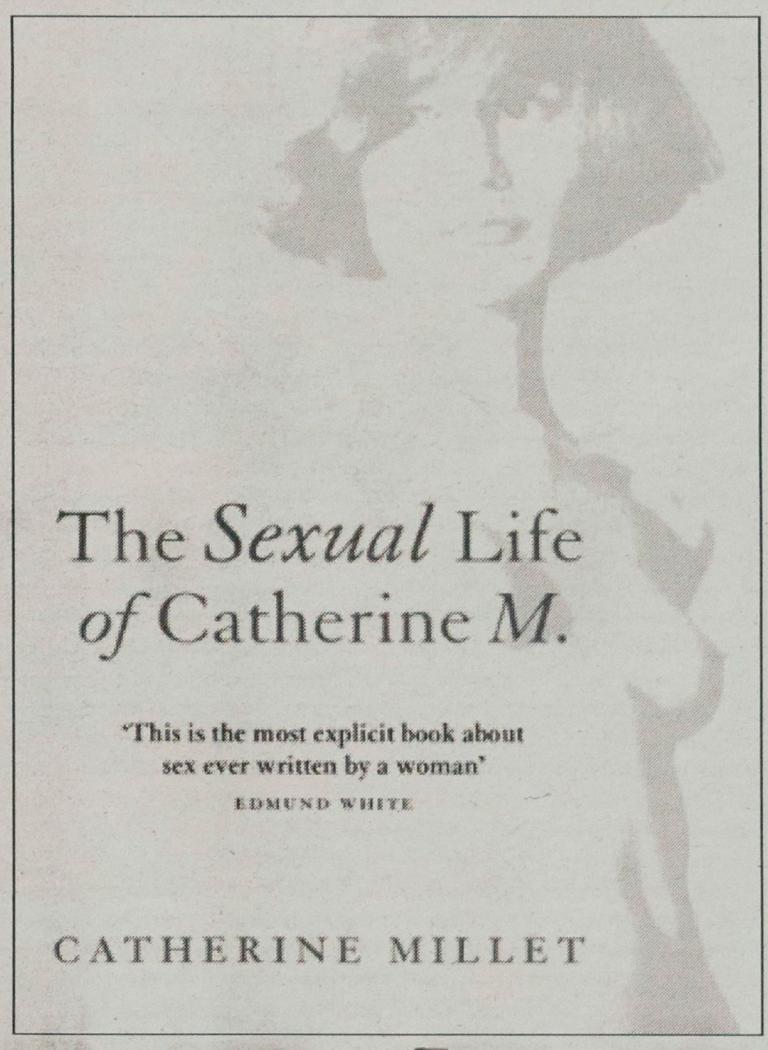
Apart from accounts of specific sexual encounters, Millet also offers us comprehensive accounts of her general likings. She tells us, "In general, I feel the need to take a man into my mouth in the first few moments of a sexual encounter…" She takes us through her favorite sexual position, her self-pleasuring diligence and her preferred fantasies.

I won't lie — sometimes I thought I was reading *Playboy* in its textual form. But Millet did have a purpose in writing beyond simply telling all. She clarifies her reasons for writing in the afterword. Millet wrote with the intentions of triggering openness in sexual discourses. She wanted to create and generate a movement where sexuality is spoken about honestly.

What this book does is offer a new way of looking at sex. If you try to see it from Millet's perspective, it is definitely a dramatic revelation. She raves about a liberating and devoid-of-sentiment type of sex. She envisions a time when "fucking in a station concourse without causing offense to any passersby" will be acceptable. While the world is certainly not prepared for this frankness (nor should it be), Millet's message is applicable to the more conservative public. She instills vision of easing human relations.

If you can get past the sexual jargon — actually, don't because it's entertaining and unbelievable — you'll learn a lot about how you look at sex and what it means for you as well your views on honesty and openness. "The Sexual Life of Catherine M." reaffirmed my unwavering belief that openness — which leads to affection and emotional connections — is important to having a fulfilling life.

— CHRIS GROSSO, ARTS EDITOR


The *Sexual* Life *of* Catherine *M.*
'This is the most explicit book about sex ever written by a woman'
EDMUND WHITE
CATHERINE MILLET

LITERARY PICKS

BY EDWARD PICKERING

TITLE
COLD MOUNTAIN
AUTHOR
CHARLES FRAZIER
PUBLICATION DATE
1997

I recently watched "Cold Mountain," the Civil War epic based on Charles Frazier's 1997 word-of-mouth bestselling novel of the same name. The film, starring Jude Law and Nicole Kidman, stays faithful to the text. However, as fantastic as the cinematic version is, with its smoldering love affair and dead-on acting, the novel exceeds all expectations. "Cold Mountain" received overwhelming praise from critics and general readers alike.

Virtually none of that praise is exaggeration. In fact, "Cold Mountain" is an anachronism, a species of literature long thought extinct — a novel that made it to the top without the help of mass publicity and promotion. In short, "Cold Moutain" was a publishing phenomenon.

Based on the "Odyssey," Cold Mountain is a love story centered in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina. Inman, a carpenter, receives a gruesome wound in battle with Yankee troops in Virginia. The war is drawing to a close and little hope remains for the South. Convalescing in a military hospital, Inman decides to return home to Ada, the Charleston belle with whom he fell in love before the war began. At the time of his departure Inman and Ada had only kissed — nothing more.

In the novel's opening chapter Inman awakes to a peaceful sunrise. With the measured confidence of man whose mind is made, Inman steps out the window opposite his bed. So begins his journey home to the hamlet of Cold Mountain. The story of Inman's Odysseus-like journey and Ada's Penelope-like endurance is told in a calm but powerful manner. As one would expect of a Homeric hero, Inman's journey is fraught with peril. Union army patrols, treacherous civilians, temptresses and the dreaded Home Guard (Southern militia who roam in search of deserters) beset him on his way.

Though less threatening, Ada's trials are equally engaging. Reliant on her father, Ada is cast loose when he abruptly dies. Ignorant of farming, and unable to cook or keep house, Ada lives of the welfare of friends while her property and possesions fall into disrepair. The situation turns drastic until Ruby, a wild no-nonsense country girl with know-how, moves in with her. Under Ruby's guidance Ada repairs the property and restores her self worth. Waiting in the wings, in true Homeric fashion, is an unwanted suitor, a brutal captain of the Home Guard.

To his absolute command of language Frazier couples a profound knowledge of life in Civil War era North Carolina.

As a debut novel, "Cold Mountain" is nothing short of a miracle.

Skiers build momentum for NCAA title

Alpine and Nordic capture 5 of 8 events

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placed in the top 10 as well by finishing sixth with a time of 13:55.3.

At the Snow Bowl, the alpine skiers also had a formidable showing with Slalom racers finishing fifth, sixth and 11th on the Ross. "The nordic team made it easy [for] us," explained Alpine Coach Forest Carey. "Throughout the season they are always done before us. It can take pressure off [the racers] when we see Middlebury is already ahead because of them."

Fred Emich '04, who knows the Snow Bowl better than anyone else after skiing on it for four years, led Middlebury with a time of 1:21.53 after the second run, less than two seconds behind the winning pace set by Paul McDonald from Dartmouth. David Coriell '06 continued the strong skiing he exhibited at the Williams carnival, finishing less than a 10th of a second behind in sixth (1:21:61) followed by Eric Rygg '04 in 11th (1:23:34). Jessica Smith '05 — who continues to impress — led the women. Smith finished fifth in the Slalom event with a time of 1:35.57, only two seconds behind the leader, Courtney Calise from Dartmouth. Tara Martin '07 finished right behind in sixth with a time of 1:36.18, Brie Pike-Sprenger '04 placed ninth (1:36.69) and first-year Lindsay Brush had a strong showing as she finished 12th (1:37.12).

Middlebury closed out the EISA carnival season with triumphant finishes in the top third of all events to cement their EISA Championship and Middlebury Carnival victory. "Competing on our home hill has always been huge, both for alpine and nordic," explained nordic coach Terry Aldrich following the races. "Racing on trails that we use for training on a daily basis is always an advantage. The crews at the Snow Bowl and Rikert give us the very best training conditions all year so when race day comes, we are used to the trails. And the opportunity to race in from of a home crowd of friends and family is a huge motivational advantage other teams don't have. A great illustration is the performance of our Giant Slalom skiers on Saturday. Placing five men in the top seven is unheard of at this level."

The Panthers were led by an overpowering performance in the Giant Slalom (GS) event. The Middlebury alpine team had its best showing of the year.

For the men, Emich continued his impressive showing by winning the GS with a time of 2:00.77. A few hundredths of a second behind came teammate Rygg finishing second (2:00.95). Peter Phillips '05 broke into the top five by finishing fourth (2:01.16). Derek Shields '05 and Coriell finished sixth and seventh respectively (2:01.52 and 2:01.63), giving Middlebury five of the top seven spots.

The women, too, showed the benefits of skiing on their home mountain for the final race of the carnival. Brush turned heads by winning the GS with a time of 2:04.12. Smith closed out a strong event by finishing third (2:04.66), followed by Molly Russel '05 in seventh (2:05.60).

That morning, down at Bread-loaf, the nordic team didn't miss a beat. Kuzzy assumed his usual spot and led the way, finishing third in the 15K with a time of 41:28.9, 10 seconds behind the winning pace, again set by Bailey. Rodgers was a few seconds behind in eighth (42:27.8) followed by Jack Whitcomb '06 in 14th (43:19.5). Newick set a strong Panther pace for the women in the 10K, finishing in third with a time of 30:10.4, two seconds behind the winner, Kate Underwood from the University of New Hampshire. Whitcomb followed right behind in fourth (30:49.3) and Berkley Leach '04 finished eighth (31:16.6).

Knowing better than anyone else the nuances of the Snow Bowl and Rikert Touring Center, in their last carnival ever, seniors Emich, Newick, Whitcomb, Leach, Rodgers and Sprenger capped their careers with particularly strong performances.

What has been the key to this year's success? "I feel the reason is we have extremely talented skiers in both disciplines who are highly motivated," said Aldrich. "We also have incredible balance between men and women, and between alpine and nordic. We have no weak event."

"The biggest struggle we faced this year was one of high expectations at the end," he added. "In the beginning we were clearly the underdog to the UVM tradition of winning, however, after we won the first three carnivals we felt self-imposed pressure to continue to win."

Carey summed up the season by saying, "We won the first carnival in 20 below weather. Right off the bat I knew this year would be special." He went on to say, "I'm really just proud of this team. Everyone stepped up when we needed it. Emich in the beginning coming from the back of the pack, and then to see him win this past weekend was just great. The girls, too, they just kept fighting away and they finally come out on top."

Middlebury returns to the slopes on March 10-13 at the NCAA Championships hosted by the University of Nevada–Reno. It will be the ultimate test and will show how the team can perform on a national scale. "We're sending a strong squad," commented Carey. "We go out as the number-one seed from the east. The western schools will be tough. They have a lot of European skiers, and by only sending three males and three females leaves little room for error, but I know we can ski with anyone."

The teams will certainly experience difficulties due to the difference in conditions between the East and the West.

"The nordic team is in a tougher position," said Carey, "going out to altitude. For [the alpine team] the soft snow will be a little rough in the beginning." The coaches are confident though, with Aldrich saying, "As a Division-III institution we'll go out west as an underdog which is great because we may just surprise a few of the big dogs."

Regardless of the outcome of the NCAAs, this season will be remembered as the greatest in Middlebury's history. The Middlebury Panthers have done the unthinkable, winning five out of six carnivals and winning the EISA Championships on their own mountain.

Will this be the sign of greater things to come? Maybe, but for now it doesn't matter. The skiers are reveling in their well-deserved victory and the College celebrates with them.

Albert Bitici

Colin Rodgers '04 (left) tries to pass UVM's Ryan Foster in the 15K as teammates (far right) energetically cheered him on. He placed eighth in the event.

Albert Bitici

The women's alpine team clocked strong times that helped the Panthers to victory.

Albert Bitici

Hundreds attended the races, filling the Bowl's parking lot past capacity.

Men's hockey too big for Jumbos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

While the Jumbos did not have much to cheer about, their senior goalie, the perpetually taunted Ben Crapser, stopped 47 pucks and left the ice only one save short of the NESCAC tourney record.

Senior Marc Scheuer was once again the superlative goaltender of the night. While he was not bombarded with too many shots, he remained steady, consistent and unyielding. Once again he made a handful of stops that belong on highlight reels across the country. During one particular Tufts breakaway, Scheuer halted the Jumbo attack by first stopping a rocket wrister and proceeded to deny the rebound by falling from his already established butterfly position into an all out spread eagle

MEN'S HOCKEY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Middlebury	7
Tufts	1

This upcoming Saturday, the Panthers will be skating against their foes from Hamilton College on the ice in Kenyon Arena. An intense match-up that pits the White Mules of Colby against the Bantams of Trinity will follow the Panther/Continental matinee. The Panthers will be paying particular attention to this match-up. Out of Middlebury's three losses this season, both Colby and Trinity have been on the winning side of things against the Panthers. Beaney said, "All the remaining teams are tough and anyone can win this thing. We need the same solid goaltending and timely goals that we've been getting in order to keep advancing."

The postseason is always intense. Teams know that a loss means no tomorrow. The games are characterized by a heightened level of play and a never-say-die attitude.

"There will be some great hockey for all the fans this weekend," commented Beaney. The Panther faithful will be there, and you can bet that Beaney and the boys will be there. With the NESCAC title up for grabs, the Panthers will surely bring their "A" game.

Albert Bitici

Adam Foote '04 and the rest of the Panthers turned their backs on the Jumbos Saturday in a 7-1 rout.

Scuba class promotes spring fever

By Jack Donaldson
STAFF WRITER

In the beginning of February the weight room is crushed under a horde of students looking to get fit. Lines for the treadmills and bikes increase, free weights become a hassle and the abdominal machines are a nightmare.

It is not just varsity athletes, but everyone seems to be down in Nelson, trying to get svelte. The *raison d'être*: Spring Break. Beach season looms large, and everyone wants to be David Hasselhoff or Heidi Klum.

In a similar vein, these warm weather illusions of grandeur have spread to the natatorium, where from 5 to 9 p.m. every Monday, 16 students and some local residents gather to receive scuba-diving instruction.

Aside from qualifying the students for valuable physical education credit, the classes prep them for future exploits in locales warmer than ours.

"I'll be honest," admitted Dan Saper '06, a member of the class, "it's nice to get [the P.E. requirement] out of the way, but without Spring Break looming large, the incentive for the class would be greatly diminished." Saper's plans for the spring recess include a trip to Hawaii with his father, a trip that will include scuba diving, and one that Saper is "totally stoked" for.

The scuba class started at the beginning of the spring term, and ends in the beginning of April. The end result of the arduous four-hour sessions, paid for in dry skin and irritated eyes, will be an official scuba license, which allows the holder to be liberated from most resort restriction on the activity.

Once you are a licensed diver, you are licensed for life. "So even beyond the immediate future, it's a nice thing to hold on to, if you like to dive, which I do," Saper said.

Saper had some diving experience going into the class, but some of the students are rookies. Also, there are two father-son teams in the class, learning together.

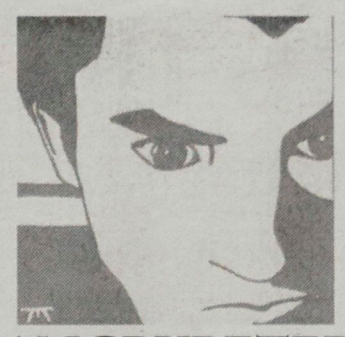
"So far," said Saper, "there have been no wild stories. Everyone basically does their own thing. The only thing that unites us is the anxiety from scuba war stories." Stories of things that could go wrong often take place deep down in the water, when most daylight disappears and one's surroundings are darker than night.

The stories are mostly precautionary warnings, told by the instructor, Pierre "Poseidon" LaRoque. LaRoque is an instructor from Champlain Divers, an outfit from Burlington, and receives high marks from the class — a leader by example more than anything else.

At the end of the class, for the last five days, LaRoque leads his class out to Lake Champlain, and they do dives in a more realistic, if cloudy, atmosphere. After they complete those dives, the students will be certified for life.

Scuba diving is just one example of the eclectic mix of P.E. courses offered by the College, open to all.

Other activities include golf, tennis, squash, self-defense and a massage class. When told of the other P.E. classes offered, Saper's ears perked up. "Massage, eh?" he grinned, "That could come in handy for Spring Break too."



ANGRYPETER

BY PETER YORDAN

Is there a better melting pot than the lodge at the Middlebury Snow Bowl? Where else do students, faculty, staff and townspeople mingle so convivially, with friendly smiles and nods all around? Where else can a top-level NCAA Division I athlete share a bench with a math professor and the town barber?

I had the fortune to be at the Bowl on Saturday to watch the Carnival races, and I couldn't help but recognize all the friendly faces around me. It seemed like everybody in town was out at the mountain taking advantage of the festivities and the bright spring sun to soak up a decidedly unseasonal tan. Everyone was in high spirits, watching Middlebury power its way to its first ever Carnival victory on its own mountain. The mountain was all primped up for its big day. Visitors could elect to sit back at the large barbeque on the lodge porch or head off up the lifts to ski the mountain. An enterprising University of Vermont booster had managed to sneak up under the chairlift to spray paint UVM slogans in the snow, but no one topped the brave Middlebury fans who clambered onto the snow-covered pond halfway up the mountain to write GO MIDD in enormous letters.

The Middlebury racers were, of course, a spectacular centerpiece to the event. Led by GS winners Fred Emich '04 and Lindsey Brush '07, Middlebury grabbed spot after spot in the standings to the delight of the crowd.

The ambiance was wonderful, and the impromptu cross-country sprint relay race at the base of the mountain showed how much the racers themselves were getting in the spirit and enjoying the day.

But the Snow Bowl is always wonderful, even on a quiet weekday. The spirit of the Carnival is just an extension of the normal warmth our mountain radiates all season long. Every time I go there and step into the tiny lodge I run across people I'm glad to see — friends I never bump into on campus, familiar staff members and professors and townspeople I pass every day. The whole Middlebury community seems to come together to share a day on the mountain.

I'll admit, I own a season pass to Sugarbush, and I go there whenever I really want to ski hard. The three little lifts and tiny trails of the Bowl can't compare to the big mountains. The Snow Bowl occupies the chief spot in my thoughts, however, despite its creaky lifts and tiny trails. When friends come up to visit, I don't take them to the Bush or to Mad River Glen. I take them to the Bowl, and invariably they have a wonderful time. The friendliness and intimacy of the Snow Bowl, Carnival time or otherwise, is something no other mountain can copy.

To the top of the world

Britton Keeshan '05.5 heads to Everest in search of a record seventh climb

Courtesy

By Peter Yordan
Senior Staff Writer

For a Middlebury pre-med, nothing is scarier than the MCAT — not even climbing the world's tallest mountain. Just ask Britton Keeshan '05.5: he's about to do both.

Middlebury's most famous mountain climber, however, is no stranger to daunting obstacles. In fact, he travels the globe in search of them. The 22-year-old is preparing to add to his shining climbing resume the crowning achievement of an already wildly accomplished youth. At the end of March he will set off for the foot of Mount Everest in an attempt to become the youngest person ever to have climbed the tallest mountain on every continent on Earth, known as the seven summits.

Keeshan is no stranger to the spotlight, either. The grandson of beloved children's television entertainer Captain Kangaroo, Keeshan has seen his name bandied about in the headlines in the wake of his grandfather's death last month. Profiles in *Newsweek, Sports Illustrated* and *Men's Journal* have turned him into something of a *cause célèbre* as he seeks to reach to reach the pinnacle of the world in record time.

"I'm just going to give it my best shot, and we'll see what happens," said Keeshan. "Even if I don't make it, it's something I'm proud to have tried."

Everest caps off a worldwide tour that has seen Keeshan travel to every continent on the planet in search of his goal to climb the seven summits. He's already nailed six of them, from Alaska's imposing Mt. McKinley, snowy Elbrus in the Caucasus, the desert mountain of Aconcagua in Chile and Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro, to the frigid Vinson Massif in Antarctica and tiny Kosciusko in Australia. "It was something I realized I could do after I climbed Mt. McKinley. I've been able to see the world and been able to meet amazing new people."

Keeshan began his journey in 1999 at the age of 17, when he first ascended McKinley, or Denali as it is also known. At 20,320 feet , it is North America's tallest peak. He had started mountain climbing only three years earlier, when as a precocious 14-year-old he summitted the famous Grand Teton in Wyoming. "I just kind of fell into it. Then I went to Alaska in 1997 at the age of 15, and I just fell in love with McKinley." Keeshan survived the mountain, where temperatures can routinely drop to minus 40 Fahrenheit. "McKinley was a big mental challenge. It took us 24 days to get to the summit." Day after day he found himself carrying 80 lbs. of gear up the mountain. "In the end I really learned to love that style of climbing. Once you come down off a mountain you have a desire to go right back into the mountains."

It wasn't until 2001 that things really got started, however. Keeshan took advantage of his Feb semester to travel down to South America, where he braved the high Andes to claim 22,841 foot Aconcagua.

Next he turned his attention to the Old World, taking a safari to beautiful, snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, where he climbed nearly four miles in six days, starting from steamy jungle at the base all the way up to the icy rim of the peak's long extinct volcano.

From there he headed to the Caucasus to climb Russia's Elbrus, which, surpasses the more famous Mont Blanc as the highest peak in Europe.

Keeshan even had to travel down to forbidding Antarctica and the rarely climbed Vinson Massif to complete his quest. He used this past J-Term to make the long journey down to the bottom of the Earth. "The sheer logistics of getting to Antarctica were enormous," he said. There are no airstrips on the continent, so Keeshan's plane had to land on a strip of glacial ice that served as a runway, where they were forced to slide for some 11 miles before coming to a stop. "The Vinson Massif starts at about 8,000 ft. and only goes to about 16,100, but since there is less concentrated oxygen at the poles of the Earth it feels like 20,000 feet."

Ironically, however, it was Australia's tiny Mount Kosciusko, whose peak barely surpasses 7,000 feet and is serviced by the chairlifts of the mountain's local ski resort, that caused Keeshan some of the worst trouble. Passing through Hong Kong on his way to Australia last year during the height of the SARS epidemic, Keeshan became sick with a severe cough and a fever. Australian health officials forced him to go under quarantine for several weeks until his sickness abated. Eventually Keeshan was allowed to make his pleasant four-hour hike to the top of Australia for his sixth continental coup.

Now all that remains between Keeshan and his goal are some 29,035 feet of treacherous rock, snow, and ice. There is, of course, no guarantee that Keeshan will be able to complete his climb of the often stormy and dangerous mountain, where bad weather can force even the most experienced climbers back down. "It's different because of the altitude. The high altitude makes the technicality that exists much more difficult. It's going to be a mentally daunting process.

"I've never been up to 8,000 meters before. I'm just going to give it my best shot. I've been training hard. I'm confident in my skills."

Keeshan will have to survive miles of dangerous terrain to even approach the high summit. Places like the crevasse-filled Khumbu icefall, where falling chunks of ice the size of cars and buildings can create an ever-changing death trap that Keeshan will have to traverse four times. "You're cheating death every time you walk through there," he said.

Keeshan's climb is being sponsored by AT&T in hopes that he will overtake 23 year old Japanese climber Astsushi Yamada as the youngest person to reach the seven summits. Yet the record is not the driving force behind Keeshan's quest. "My climbing is not about a record," he said. "The record would be the icing on the cake." In the end, however, the gravity-defying feats help Keeshan define his life. "With climbing it's all about the focus and the drive," he said.

"Here at Middlebury I'm constantly multitasking, trying to do a million things at once. When I'm in the mountains the only thing I can focus on is putting one foot in front of the other. That focus on each step is really stress relieving. It provides a lot of clarity and allows me to come back to places like Middlebury and have a new perspective."

In the midst of all of his preparation, Keeshan also had to deal with the death of his famous grandfather, who had been a major influence in the lives of all his six grandchildren. "He pushed us all. He wanted us to explore the world," Keeshan said. "My grandfather is probably one of the reasons I found climbing and one of the reasons I stuck with it. I have him to thank for all the success I've had."

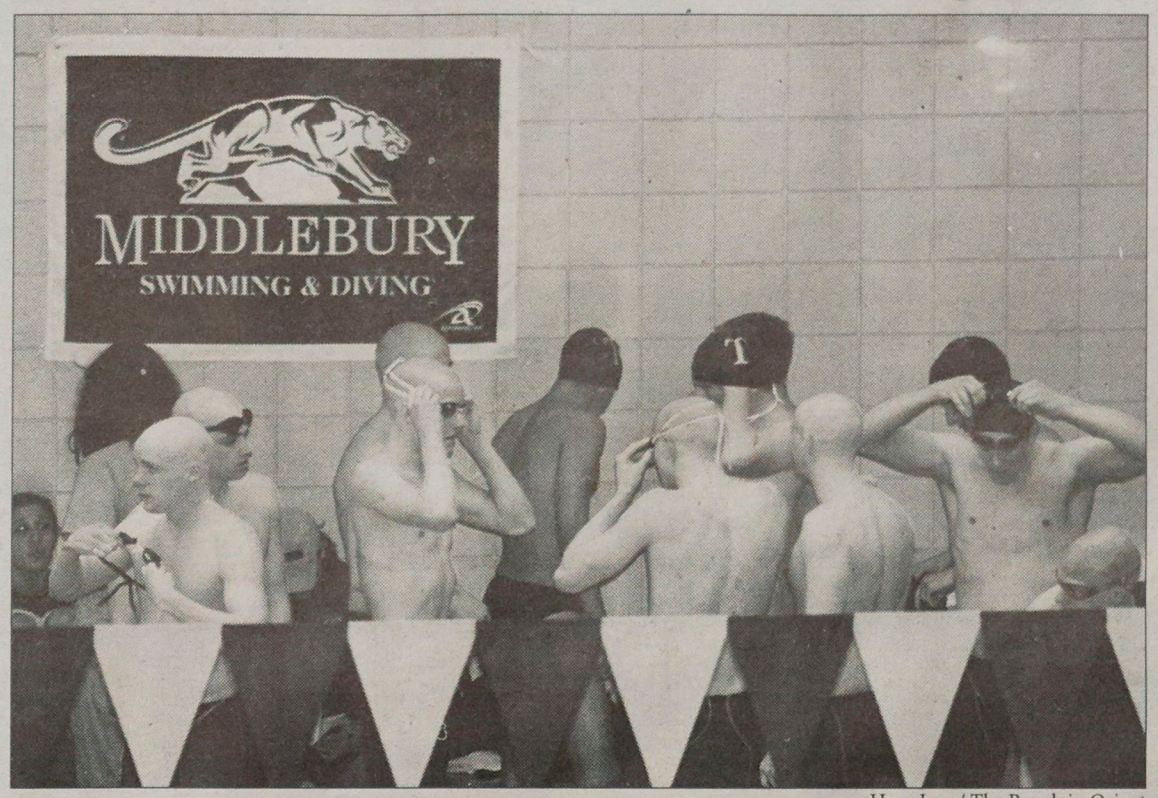
After Everest, Keeshan will have to turn his attention back to that dreaded MCAT. The young science major is even planning on taking his test prep book up the mountain with him. Much of Keeshan's free time in recent years has gone towards work in third world medicine in places like India and Ethiopia. He wants to head to medical school to continue that work. Climbing will have to take a back seat for a couple of years, especially since after Everest there is nowhere to go but down. Yet even Keeshan is unsure of what the future has in store for him. "You can only plan so far ahead. I don't think I'll ever leave the mountains for good."

KEESHAN'S SUPER SEVEN

ASIA:	MOUNT EVEREST (NEPAL)	29,035 ft.
SOUTH AMERICA:	ACONCAGUA (CHILE)	22,841 ft.
NORTH AMERICA:	MOUNT McKINLEY (USA)	20.320 ft.
AFRICA:	KILIMANJARO (TANZANIA)	19,340 ft.
EUROPE:	ELBRUS (RUSSIA)	18,513 ft.
ANTARCTICA:	VINSON MASSIF	16,067 ft.
AUSTRALIA:	MOUNT KOSCIUSZKO	7,310 ft.

Men's team splashes to 4th

Panthers place out of top three second-straight year



Hans Law / The Bowdoin Orient

Middlebury swimmers and other NESCAC competitors prepare for their championship events at Bowdoin.

By Emily Berlanstein
Staff Writer

Last weekend the men's swimming and diving team traveled to Bowdoin College for the NESCAC Championship meet. The Panthers placed fourth overall with 1219.5 points, behind Williams, Amherst and Tufts.

Despite falling behind Tufts by a narrow margin, the young Panther squad established itself as a force that will continue to compete for top positions in the NESCAC for seasons to come.

For many of Middlebury's top swimmers, the vibe at the league championship was an unfamiliar experience. "The atmosphere is like nothing I've ever experienced. Everyone is on their feet, screaming. It's a tense environment and there is a constant flow of motion," commented Tim Lux '07.

This nervous energy had a positive affect on Middlebury's underclass team members. Rookie Rob Collier '07 won the 200-backstroke with a time of 1:51.88, making him eligible for the NCAA Championships in St. Peter's, Mo. March 18-20. Collier also qualified in the 200-IM and the 400-IM, with times of 1:53.44 (fourth place) and 4:02.22 (third place), respectively.

The atmosphere is like nothing I've ever experienced.
— Tim Lux '07

Collier was not the only underclassman to make a significant impact as both Rob Hillas '06 and Lux shattered school records. Hillas placed fourth in the 1,000-free with a time of 9:37.86 and third in the 1,650-free with a time of 16:07.71. Lux placed second in the 200-breaststroke at 2:07.02.

The relays were the most intense portion of the meet, since they came on the last day and determined the Panthers' final standing.

Lux remarked, "We were extremely fired up for all of the relays. Everyone was on the deck, chanting and supporting the team. We did all we could to beat Tufts, and we performed really well. Unfortunately, they had a strong night, too."

The 400 yard medley relay team of Lux, Collier, Matt Clark '04 and Jason Korsmeyer '05 broke the school record en route to a second place finish with a time of 3:32.16. The 200 yard medley relay team of Lux, Clark, Korsmeyer and David Hawkins '05 also performed well, earning a second-place finish with a time of 1:36.25. Also securing a second place finish for the Panthers with a time of 3:13.40 was the 400 yard freestyle relay team of Korsemeyer, Clark, Hawkins and Adam Rahal '05.

Panther divers Tris Arscott '06, who had already qualified for nationals, and Michael Young '05 were also significant contributors, finishing fourth and fifth, respectively, in both the one-meter and three-meter events.

Women's defense clamps down

Continued from page 28

provide much of a challenge, the Panthers used the game to their advantage, and recognized its importance heading into this weekend. "The good thing about losing the coin flip was that we got a chance to play this past weekend, and keep our momentum going, rather than going two weeks without a game," commented senior captain Jean Butler.

The quarterfinal win was the 14th straight for Middlebury against Division III opponents.

Women's Hockey

Saturday, February 28

Middlebury	6
Connecticut College	0

The Panthers should feel very much at home this weekend in Brunswick, as this will be the second consecutive year that Bowdoin has hosted the finals. Middlebury defeated both Williams and Bowdoin a year ago to capture the championship. They also picked up a win at Bowdoin less than a month ago to earn a share of the regular season NESCAC title.

"We're excited to go back to Maine this weekend. There is a lot of energy in their rink, a good crowd, and we feel very comfortable playing there. As long as we play our game, we feel pretty good about our chances," said Butler.

To get to the finals, they will first have to get by Williams for a third time this season. The Panthers won in Williamstown 6-2 in January and squeaked out a 3-2 victory just two weeks ago in Middlebury. It is always difficult defeating a team three times in the same season, and former Middlebury men's assistant coach Neil Sinclair's Ephs gave the Panthers all they could handle in the regular season finale.

"They're a good team, and we know we cannot look past them. It will take a solid team effort to beat them," said junior defender Jackie Cohen.

If the Panthers can successfully defend their title, they will gain an automatic bid in the NCAA tournament, which begins next week.

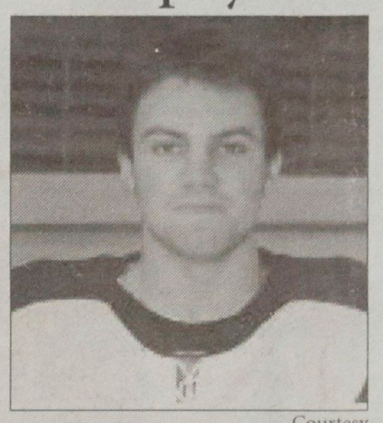
Currently they sit second in the United States College Hockey Online national poll, so they will likely receive an at-large bid in the tournament regardless of this weekend's results, but that is not a guarantee. With two wins this weekend and the NESCAC championship, the Panthers would just assume to not have to worry about that.

As long as we play our game, we feel pretty good about our chances.
— Jean Butler '04

SPORTSBRIEFS

David Freedman, Sports Editor

Cooper stacks his trophy case



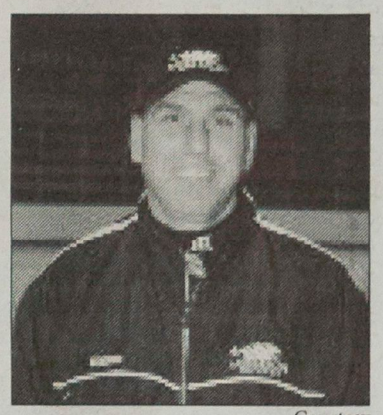
Courtesy

After being named NESCAC player of the week twice in the month of February, Middlebury College senior Kevin Cooper was voted player of the year for the second year in a row and to the first team all-conference by league coaches on March 2. Mike Velez '04 joined Cooper on the first team as a defenseman. Velez anchors a Panther defense that leads the nation in goals allowed by opponents, averaging 1.68 per game. Cooper is only five points away from leading Division III in scoring and already is first in the NESCAC in points with 44 and goals with 27. The senior from Mississauga, Ontario now has 91 goals for his career, raising the bar on his own record-setting tally. Cooper was an All-Conference performer for the third straight year and significantly contributed to Middlebury's five-year streak of entering the NESCAC Championships as the top seed. Velez was honored to the All-Conference team for the first time in his career.

All-NESCAC for 11 Pink Panthers

The 2003-2004 women's swimming and diving all-NESCAC team was announced after the conclusion of the league championships on February 22. Those recognized for the all-conference honors finished in the top three in any event they competed in at the championship meet. Middlebury had 11 of its 24 swimmers and divers that participated in the meet earn NESCAC team standards. NESCAC Champions Barbara Van der Veer '07, Martha Goebel '04, Teague Douglas '06 and Lizzy DeWitt '04, who won both the 200-free relay and the 400-free relay were honored, as well as individual champions in Kellianne Egan '04 (1,000-free), Sarah Groff '04 (1,650-free) and Taylor Bolz '04 (50-breast). The team broke 10 varsity records on the day, four of which were relays and two of which were set by Tessa Truex '05, for points scored, in the one-meter and three-meter diving. McKenna Moreau '06, Colleen Fitzharris '07 and Mollie Reed '06 also were named to the team for their performances. Moreau, Van der Veer, Groff, Bolz, DeWitt, Douglas and Goebel have been invited to compete in the national meet on March 11-13.

Women's ice hockey team rakes in awards



Courtesy

The women's hockey team raked in NESCAC honors this week. Four women were named to the first-team on Tuesday and Head Coach Bill Mandigo was voted the coach of the year for the conference. Middlebury's two leading scorers, Lorna Gifis '05 and Emily Quizon '06, goaltender Kate Kogut '06 and rookie defender Shannon Tarrant '07 all headlined four of the six first-team spots. Gifis and Quizon lead the team in points with 42 and are second in the NESCAC, only behind the player of the year from Bowdoin College. The two have contributed six goals to Middlebury's 30 percent conversion rate on power plays, which leads the nation. Kogut and Tarrant are essential parts of a stingy defense that gives up only 1.22 goals a game. The team's offensive and defensive outputs this year are both third nationally. In his 16th season at the helm of the women's program Mandigo has amassed a 272-80-10 record. The women currently have a record of 20-3 overall and 15-1 in NESCAC play. The honor is the coach's first since he was named AHCA National Coach of the year in 2001. He has won the ECAC Women's Hockey Alliance Coach of the Year award twice, once in 1996 and again in 2001.

Mandigo will be leading the women this weekend to a defense of their NESCAC title at Bowdoin College.

Track stars head to ECAC's

Middlebury's men's and women's indoor track athletes competed in the all-division New England Championships this past weekend hosted by Boston University. Contributing to an already outstanding year, Maryanne Porter '04 shattered a school record in the 400-meters with a time of 58.62 seconds. Megan Gambino '06 ran a solid 3:07.86 in the 1,000-meter run to best her all-New England honorary time from the previous meet by a full second. The Distance Medley relay (DMR) on the men's side, with juniors Jon Erwin and Nick Digani as well as outdoor star Kevin Bright '06 and Matt Horesta '06, broke the Middlebury record with a time of 10:15.40. Gambino and the DMR team will take their spikes to the ECAC Championships this weekend after qualifying this season to take part in the meet.

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GAMES TO WATCH

MEN'S HOCKEY
VS. HAMILTON
MAR. 6 | 1:00 | KENYON

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
VS. BOWDOIN
MAR. 6 | @ BOWDOIN

campus sports

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2004

SKIERS CARVE CARNIVAL WIN

Panthers victorious on home mountain for historic first EISA title

Albert Bitici

Middlebury's alpine skiers, like their nordic counterparts, put it all on the line for two full days of racing and captured their fifth Carnival win.

By Sean Breen
Staff Writer

In a superlative showing last weekend, Middlebury College alpine and nordic ski teams finished off the carnival season the way it began: with an historic win. The Panthers, after winning four of the last five eastern carnivals, were the overwhelming favorites going into Middlebury's carnival. They delivered. Middlebury won on its home mountain and took the Eastern Intercollegiate Skiing Association (EISA) Championship away from the University of Vermont (UVM), which had held the title for the past 28 years. The Panthers won the carnival with 1,058 points, a comfortable distance from second place UVM (1,017) and third place Dartmouth (1,003).

After the first day of races, Middlebury held onto first place after a commanding showing on the flats and on the Slalom course. At Rikert Touring Center, the nordic team continued its season-long dominance. The men were led by Garrot Kuzzy '06, who finished second in the 10K freestyle event with a time of 23:40.6, a mere seven seconds behind the leader, Lowell Bailey from UVM. Rookie Beau Baldock '07 had a strong fifth-place finish (24:23.1), with veteran Colin Rodgers '04 breathing down his back in sixth (24:33.9). The women skied as strong as the men in the 5K freestyle. The team leadership shone through as the two senior "Kates," Newick and Whitcomb, headed the Middlebury pack. Newick placed second with a time of 13:33.9, six seconds off the winner — Kate Crawford from UVM — and Whitcomb finished fourth (13:44.9). Claire Anderson '06

See Skiers, page 24

Men's hockey dominates Tufts

By Ryan Reese
Assistant Sports Editor

It is said that any given team can win a contest on any given night. With a bounce of the puck or a lucky slip of a stick, any team can emerge with a "W." This past Saturday, the Panther men's hockey team didn't need any of these fortunate bounces or chance happenings in order to prove its worth. With a dominant 7-1 victory over Tufts University, there was little doubt that Middlebury deserved to advance to the final four of the NESCAC Tournament.

While a crowd full of excited, Carnival-loving students and fans looked on, the Panthers proceeded to completely dismantle a lackluster Tufts squad. During the first period, the skaters looked a tad sluggish and the play was slightly tentative. As both teams were attempting to feel each other out and find a groove, the first intermission saw a game knotted at ones. A Brian Phinney '04 power play goal was all Middlebury had to show, while Ken Cleary of Tufts had notched a power play goal of his own. Little did the Jumbos know that Cleary's tally would be the last celebration of their '03-'04 campaign.

When asked to comment about the remainder of the game, Head Coach Bill Beaney said, "We came out and played solid second and third periods. I thought we were moving the puck well and we were skating with speed." This humble understatement describes a second period that witnessed five Panther goals. Senior captain John Dawson led the way for the Panther attack throughout the second stanza by setting up an Evgeny Saidachev '07 power play strike before tacking on two brilliant goals of his own. With a goal from Eric Johnson '05 and sophomore Jeff Smith's blistering slap shot that ricocheted off the pipes before burying itself in the back of the net, Middlebury saw itself flaunting a five goal advantage before the last period of play began.

The final 20 minutes of play were more of the same. The only scoring in the period came from the quick stick of John Sales '07. But the play was far from even. In a game that can be summed up by a 54-14 shots on goal advantage for Middlebury, there were few signs of life from the dejected Tufts bench.

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Women blank Camels

Ice hockey squad earns trip to NESCAC semis

By Mike Kennedy
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's hockey team opened the postseason with a convincing 6-0 shutout of Connecticut College in the NESCAC quarterfinals last weekend at Chip Kenyon Arena.

The Panthers, seeded second in the tournament after losing a coin flip to Bowdoin College, will travel to Maine this weekend to defend their NESCAC title. Middlebury will play Williams College in the second semi-final game at 4 p.m. this Saturday, while Bowdoin and Hamilton will face off at 1 p.m. The finals will take place on Sunday at 1 p.m.

The Panthers had little trouble dispatching Conn College, as they out-shot the Lady Camels 55-5 on the way to the 6-0 win. Six different Panthers scored in the contest, with Liz Yale-Loehr '06, Emily Quizon '06 and Shannon Tarrant '07 each picking up a goal and an assist on the afternoon.

Kati Madouros '04 and Kate Kogut '06 split the game in the goal, combining to make five saves in the shutout.

Although the Camels did not

See Defense, page 27

Albert Bitici

Emily Quizon '06, one of the Panthers' leading scorers, helped guide the women's team to a comfortable 6-0 shutout over Connecticut College.